

Talks to end steel strike fail in confusion

Misunderstanding led to the failure yesterday of talks to bring about the end of the national steel strike, which is expected to go on for another three weeks. The unions had believed more money was on offer; the BSC negotiators said they were mistaken.

Unions believed extra cash was available

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Peace talks designed to bring an early end to the national steel strike collapsed within minutes yesterday amid bitter recriminations on both sides. The shut down of state and private steelmaking could last another three weeks.

Lay negotiators of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and the National Union of Blastfurnacemen (NUB) walked out of the first round of full-scale negotiations since the strike began on January 2 after learning the details of the British Steel Corporation's revised offer.

The breakdown came only 20 minutes after Dr David Grieve, BSC's managing director for personnel, told union leaders they were mistaken in thinking that 13 per cent increases were on the table.

The negotiations had been arranged by Mr William Sims, general secretary of the ISTC, after secret talks in Luxembourg five days ago. Both he and Mr Hector Smith, the blastfurnacemen's leader, formed the impression that the full package was on offer to all workers from January 1, but BSC maintained last night that all along it had made clear its insistence that 4 per cent of the 13 per cent could be paid only after agreement on productivity deals at local level.

This misunderstanding was fatal to the most promising peace initiative since the strike began and union leaders are now privately saying that the shutdown could last until the end of February.

Officials of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), whose patient efforts to bring the two sides together have failed, have been in touch with British Steel management and are seeking a meeting with the unions. But the prospects of an early resumption of negotiations are poor.

Mr Robert Scholey, BSC's chief executive, accused the ISTC general secretary of "kite flying" in his interpretation of the Luxembourg peace formula and building up expectations among the men that could not be realized by the loss-making state corporation.

The lay negotiators attended the talks with badges demanding 20 per cent rises, though this is not official union policy.

Mr Sims said: "I do not tell lies. The corporation sold to us a proposal that there would be 13 per cent on the table. Scholey was talking about 14 per cent, but that would be the limit."

If the package had been presented originally in the way it was put yesterday, he added, the talks would never have been arranged.

The letter outlining the offer was sent to the steel unions three days ago. It proposes 2 per cent across the board, as offered two months ago; a further general increase of 7 per

cent to "line up with" an agreement on job flexibility, demanning and reformed pay bargaining structures; and a 4 per cent minimum guarantee against which locally determined productivity schemes would be paid.

After informal exchanges in Luxembourg and later by telephone in London, union leaders interpreted this ambiguous wording to mean 9 per cent plus a 4 per cent "enabling agreement" to get local productivity bargaining off the ground.

BSC management, Mr Sims says, was given several opportunities to disagree with this interpretation but did not. Executives involved in the talks insist that they did, and Mr Scholey said last night that the public "have to choose" which version of events to believe.

Government ministers reacted to the fresh collapse of negotiations with dismay.

Militant strikers in south Yorkshire may once again threaten the future of millions of pounds worth of plant by withdrawing safety cover, and 14,000 lorry drivers in the North-east have been told by their union not to cross any ISTC picket lines.

Mr Sims promised last night: "We will prosecute this strike with the greatest degree of intensity within the laws of the country." He gave a warning that if a settlement was not found soon, the pay dispute would be drawn into the campaign against BSC's plant closure programme.

"If that happens, it will envelop the nation in a much more disastrous situation than we are in at the moment," he said.

Negotiations with leaders of 11 unions representing some 70,000 craft and general workers in British Steel are to resume tomorrow but the two main steel unions say they will not join them in accepting a corporation document committing both sides to change in collective bargaining machinery, a timetable for reducing manning negotiations, modification of the industry's guaranteed working week, job flexibility, a common wage structure and other concessions.

The ISTC general secretary has drawn up an alternative agreement, which concedes the corporation's targets in more general terms. It talks of "achieving international manning standards as ongoing plants to achieve the highest productivity pay and conditions in line with overseas competitors."

That is the part of the package for which BSC has so far offered a 7 per cent general increase.

However, this document has not been seen by BSC management because of the sudden collapse of negotiations yesterday. It is unlikely to be accepted in its present form because it is too loosely worded.

Other steel news and photograph, page 2



Photograph by Brian Harris

Lord Soames at Government House, Salisbury, Rhodesia, where a gloomy view of political coercion was presented to him yesterday by his election supervisors. Report, page 4.

Callaghan triumph over leftists

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

After the first meeting yesterday of the commission of inquiry to formulate changes in the organization of the Labour Party, it was clear that Mr James Callaghan, the Opposition leader, will insist on an investigation into the infiltration of local parties by left-wing extremists.

The three-hour meeting of the inquiry commission, in the Opposition leader's room at the House of Commons, was not without its moments of acrimony, but for Mr Callaghan and the moderate Labour MPs who had complained about the left-wing weighting of the membership, it must be reckoned something of a success.

On paper, the balance within the commission is eight to five in favour of the left wing, giving a membership that seemed likely to endorse demands for a change in the methods of electing the party leader and drafting the party manifesto, and for the "resurrection" of Labour MPs and candidates.

But there is a chance for a "consensus" view to emerge because yesterday the commission (with two absentees) agreed to Mr Callaghan's proposition that there should be not one chairman, but three "co-chairmen", and that representatives of all sections of the party will be co-opted on the three subcommittees, or "panels", which are to review particular aspects of party organization.

It was Mr Callaghan who proposed that there should be a triumvirate chairmanship consisting of Mr David Easton, general secretary of the General

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Abortion compromise of 24 weeks likely

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Members of Parliament on both sides of the abortion argument yesterday appeared to be moving towards a compromise where a pregnancy could be ended if it had lasted for no more than 24 weeks. That compares with the 28 weeks in Mr David Steel's 1967 Act, and the 20 weeks proposed in Mr John Corrie's Abortion (Amendment) Bill, which was before the House of Commons yesterday.

The main argument for 24 weeks was based on the view that medical opinion appeared to be saying that before that date the foetus would not be capable of sustaining an independent existence. Progress made yesterday clearly indicates that the present Bill, whether amended or not, has a real chance of being enacted.

In the closing moments of the sitting, after almost five hours of peaceful and well-argued debate, there was a sudden rush of blood to the heads of some of the more extreme opponents of the Bill in the public gallery. As attendants leapt into action to quell the uproar, one group of protesters hung a lengthy banner over the edge of the gallery, and there were shouts of "Women will not obey your Bill" and "Women's choice".

Most of the 25 or so women involved were marched out of the gallery more or less peacefully, but a youth appeared to be pushing up an unprovoked show of strength as he struggled and kicked against efforts to remove him. Within two minutes peace was restored.

Parliamentary debate, page 3

Afghanistan leader says the Russians will stay

From Kuldin Nayar
Kabul, Feb 8

President Babrak Karmal, of Afghanistan, has said that it is neither possible nor necessary to set any time limit for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from his country.

"They are here to consolidate the gains of our revolution, protect our land and secure peace in the region," he said. "As long as there are dangers from outside, the Russians will stay."

Mr Karmal is not opposed to any regional initiative but does not want General Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan to play any role in it since, according to the Afghan President, the lack of support of America and of Zionist forces.

In an exclusive interview, Mr Karmal told me that the Russians would leave only when proper conditions were created, and when "all signs of aggression against us are eliminated."

He was quite firm on the need for a Soviet presence in the country and gave me the impression that the withdrawal of Russian forces came nowhere in his priorities.

The two-hour interview took place in the same place where I had interviewed the late President Mohamed Daoud six years ago. The palace is heavily guarded by Russian soldiers and has been named People's House.

When pressed to spell out conditions for the Russian withdrawal, he said: "The day reactionary Pakistan, Chauvinist China, imperialist America and Britain and Zionist Egypt are defeated in their ugly plans to dismember Afghanistan, the Russians will go back."

Mr Karmal is austere in his dress and forthright in his expression. He is a chain-smoker and while I was with him smoked only expensive American cigarettes.

Whenever he referred to Russian troops, he would say: "A limited contingent has come." Asked if this was a correct description for a large Soviet force, Mr Karmal said: "This is propaganda by the BSC, the Voice of America and the Western media. I tell you with full responsibility that the contingent is very small."

(The Russian troops in Afghanistan are put at between 90,000 and 95,000.)

Explaining how the Russian intervention took place, Mr Karmal said that the first approach was made by the late Hafizullah Amin about December 15. Open and underground "progressive elements" forced him to do so. He went along because he did not want the mask of a CIA agent to fall.

Later when we took over, we endorsed his request. It is the same way as you (India) went to Bangladesh at the request of the people to stop Pakistan's atrocities."

Mr Karmal alleged that there had been a joint plot by the Americans, the Chinese and the Pakistanis to attack Afghanistan on January 6. But the Russian forces which arrived on December 27 foiled the plot. Ten days later it would have been too late.

He dwelt at length on his theory of conspiracy and mentioned Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel as "the mole" as a group of imperialists and Zionist forces included Pakistan in a scheme to take revenge on India for the liberation of Bangladesh. Islamabad wanted to grab Kashmir, Mr Karmal said.

"Pakistan is a springboard of imperialism," he added. "The Americans and the Chinese are pouring in their arms. Ships after ships are coming to Karachi to unload weapons and the Karakoram road is being used by the Chinese to send arms to Islamabad."

These weapons are being distributed among the bandits who are being trained by the "TCU".

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French rejection ends US hope for summit on Soviet intervention

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 8

An American proposal that the foreign ministers of the four main Western European countries and the United States meet in Bonn to discuss a joint Western response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has failed because of objections by the French.

The United States had suggested that the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Italy and West Germany meet Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State on February 20, the deadline set by President Carter for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan on pain of an American boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games.

They would have been expected to discuss European support for the boycott and other joint measures by the West against the Soviet Union.

A cryptic statement by Dr Jürgen Sudhoff, the West German Foreign Ministry spokesman, that there were "no indications" that such a meeting would take place came after a day of uncertainty with leaks from Washington, denials, and fresh leaks from Bonn.

Herr Klaus Bölling, the Bonn Government spokesman, said his Government hoped that intensive consultations between the Western allies would continue in the coming weeks. But it did not wish to persuade anyone that this should take the "dramaturgical form" of a meeting.

Anxious not to take steps which could affect relations with East Germany, the Bonn Government sees its main contribution as providing generous aid to Turkey, Pakistan and other countries on the fringe of the crisis area.

Dr Sudhoff has pointed out that the European ministers will see each other at the EEC foreign ministers' meeting in Rome on February 19. The visit of Mr Vance to Bonn for talks on February 20 and 21 remained unchanged.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the Opposition leader, said today that a summit of Western heads of government was "long overdue" and would be an outstanding demonstration of Western solidarity.

French fear block: France has refused to take part in the proposed meeting because President Giscard d'Estaing wants to avoid at all costs being part of an American-oriented pressure block (Ian Murray writes from Paris).

The French Foreign Ministry said this evening that France had never been formally invited to the meeting on February 20.

There has never been any question of a meeting of this type, and if there was a question of there being one the French Minister of Foreign Affairs would not participate in it," a spokesman said.

While deprecating the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, the French President feels that the interests of peace are ill-served by Western Europe seeming to lose its identity by becoming a sounding board for American opinions.

France has already told the Russians that the invasion of Afghanistan is "unacceptable". A timetable for withdrawal and an explanation of how that timetable could be carried out were the only criteria by which Soviet good intentions should be judged, M Jean François-Poncet, the Foreign Minister, has said.

The French coolness towards the meeting proposed by Mr Vance should not, therefore, be viewed as an indication that France condones what has happened in Afghanistan. It is merely a further manifestation of France's traditional need to be a factor on an independent voice.

Japan excluded: Mr Saburo Okita, the Japanese Foreign Minister, told a House of Representatives budget committee in Tokyo that since "no formal invitation to such a conference had been extended to us, there is no reason that Japan should invite itself to attend" (Our Tokyo Correspondent writes).

Mr Okita indicated that a separate American-Japanese talk on sanctions against the Soviet Union was a possibility. American regret: Officials in Washington were disappointed by France's decision not to attend the proposed meeting. They said the West such as had suggested the meeting—

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CBI chief urges cool line on union legislation

A calm approach to new industrial relations legislation was urged by Sir John Methven, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, actions and should also look to their own employees "as communicate with their employees" as they have never done before. He gave a warning that hasty legislation without proper consultation could be disastrous. But the CBI leader faces growing pressure from within the confederation for tougher representations on the Government's Employment Bill.

Page 17

GEC tops Racial bid

The battle to take over Decca seems to be reaching its final stages. General Electric rounded off a hectic week of bid and counter-bid with an offer which could be worth more than £100m. Racial Electronics, its opponent, will decide by Monday whether to continue the fight.

Hebron under curfew

The West Bank town of Hebron was early this week under curfew, eight days after the murder of a young Jewish settler, as Arab Army squads continued raids on houses. Foreign correspondents were allowed into the prohibited area in the town centre.

Labour anger on Chile

Mr Peter Shore, Labour's spokesman on foreign affairs, joined the protest over the Government's decision to restore full diplomatic relations with Chile.

Page 5

Ulster Catholics in new political drive

Roman Catholic politicians in Northern Ireland are to take the initiative over the call for an "Irish dimension" in the Government's political formula for Ulster. The non-sectarian Alliance Party is to join the "parallel conference" at Stormont which is discussing subjects relevant to that ideal.

Royal corrections

A second edition of Queen Victoria's Children, a book by Daphne Bennett, will contain corrections after an approach to the publishers by the Assistant Keeper of the Queen's Archives at Windsor. Mrs Bennett admits failing to show her manuscript to the archive office, having undertaken to do so.

Envoy describes ordeal

The Spanish Ambassador to Guatemala has described his ordeal when the embassy was seized. When police broke in to his office, extremists threw three petrol bombs, the last of which ignited. He escaped by rolling down the stairs with his clothes on fire. Shots were fired after he was taken to hospital.

Nuclear waste: Snowdonia is among four

Sites designated for possible storage and a protest rally is likely.

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 14-15; Appointments, 5; Postal shopping, 23; Home and garden, 23

Home News 2, 3
European News 4
Overseas News 4, 5
Appointments 14
Arts 14
Books 14
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Farming statistics 'sorry reading'

Farmers complain that the latest official statistics for the industry make "sorry reading", with net output and farmers' incomes down and bank borrowing up. Their union calls for protest government action. The Minister of Agriculture, however, says that the industry is in a position to compete fairly in the European market.

Leader, page 13

Letters: On trade unions and the law, from Mr John Lyons, and others; on a Greek home for the Olympics, from Mr B. F. Cook.

Features, page 12
Michael Franchman finds a good word for the publisher's career: Geraldine Norman on the Sotheby's career of Mr Peter Wilson.

Arts, page 8
John Higgins on Gemma Jones in *Very Like a Whale*; John Percival reviews Ronald Rynd's new ballet *Papillon*; David Wade on the week's radio.

Obituary, page 14
L. J. Dagover, Mr Leslie Welch, M Robert Blair, Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams.

Sport, pages 15, 16
Football: Liverpool make first change for 18 matches; Golf: Oosterhuis surprise win in the Open; Cricket: West Indies in trouble against New Zealand; Olympic Games: Programme for Lake Placid.

Stock markets: Equities retreated on breakdown in steel talks, closely followed by gilts. Oils encountered heavy buying and the FT index closed 1.5 off at 461.4.

Personal investment and finance: Putting a price on your possessions and your home.

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Parliament 14
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Science 14
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Snow reports 16

BL workers seem unwilling to back Robinson strike

By David Felton and
Donald Macintyre

Feelings at BL's Longbridge plant in Birmingham last night appeared to be running strongly against the engineering workers' strike in support of Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed communist union convenor, due to start next week.

Workers leaving the Austin Morris plant claimed that 80 per cent of the work force were opposed to the strike. There were reports that Mr Robinson's toolroom colleagues had called on the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers to hold a ballot on the strike.

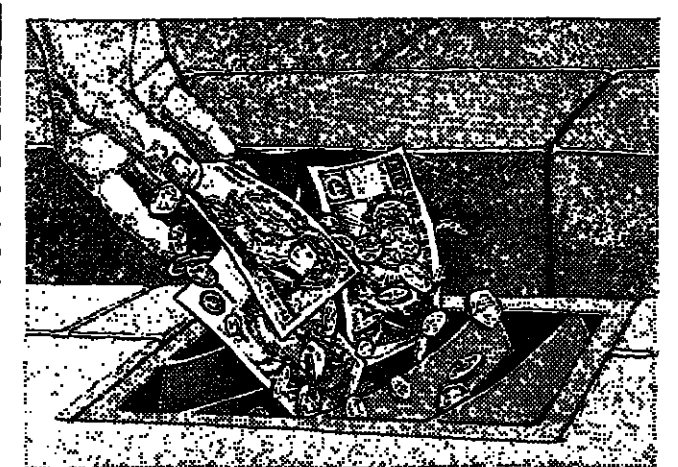
The union's Birmingham West District Committee, which met last night, is to convene a meeting of more than 200 shop stewards at Longbridge on Monday.

Mr Bert Benson, the district secretary, said he was expecting shop stewards meanwhile to have taken soundings through sectional meetings of the feelings of the membership. He would take action on any complaints that stewards had not held meetings in their sections.

He said: "After Monday's meeting I am confident that we shall be in a situation to reiterate that there will be support for the strike."

If the strike by 6,000 engineering workers goes ahead, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Longbridge will be expected to give their support and not cross picket lines.

The TGWU suspended strike action at the end of last year.



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HOME NEWS

Farmers complain of decline but minister says they can compete

By Nicholas Timmins

Net agricultural output fell by 31 per cent last year, with farmers' incomes down 17 per cent in real terms, bank borrowings up 30 per cent to an estimated £2,200m, more than 70 per cent higher than in 1977, and productivity down, according to figures published yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The decline came after the harsh winter of 1979 and a cold, wet spring, and in spite of record harvests of cereals and sugar beet.

The figures, published in the *Annual Review of Agriculture*, were described as a "sorry reading" by Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, who called for prompt government action to stop a bad situation getting worse.

But they brought a robust reply from Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who blamed the Labour Government's resistance to devaluing the "green pound". There had not been time since May for the new Government's policies to have much impact in 1979, he said in a parliamentary written reply.

"Since then we have taken a number of significant steps to improve producers' incomes. We have announced three devaluations of the green pound, two increases in the price of milk and a substantial increase in the hill livestock compensation allowances," he said.

"The devaluations, combined with the strength of sterling, have removed the discrimination against British agriculture that has existed over recent years. The industry is now in a position to compete fairly in the European market."

Whatever the future, the report paints a bleak picture of 1979. Costs were up 13 per cent, but prices by only 11 per cent. Farmers' incomes dropped in real terms by 17 per cent after an 11 per cent fall in 1977, with net incomes estimated at £1,193,000 or 51 per cent down on 1978.

The dairy herd and milk production increased slightly, but the beef herd fell by nearly 3 per cent. Home produced beef was down by 1 per cent, and the lamb crop by 3 per cent despite an increase in the sheep-breeding herd. The pig-breeding herd began to contract again, and although production of pigmeat was up in 1979, it is expected to fall this year, as pig production fell, and less land was again devoted to horticulture.

Bank borrowings rose sharply, and while some of it was for land purchase and building and works investment, borrowing for ordinary farming purposes also rose. Interest payments were estimated at £318m, more than double the 1977 figure.

Labour productivity declined by an estimated 21 per cent, after an average 31 per cent increase over the past decade and an increase of 8 per cent in 1978, while the number of whole-time workers declined again, as did the number of farms, to about 257,000.

Large concerns, which account for just over a tenth of the total, produced nine tenths of the output.

Mr Butler said that with costs up, income down, interest charges and inflation high, many farmers will face acute financial difficulties this year.

On Thursday the EEC Commission proposed that guaranteed prices should rise by an average of only 2.4 per cent this year, against the farmers' demand for a 7.9 per cent increase.



It's a dog's life for this mastiff on the opening day of Cruft's Dog Show at Earls Court, London, yesterday.

DPP to give evidence in public

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions, is to give evidence in public to the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs about deaths in police custody.

He has provided the committee with a written memorandum. His appearance next Thursday, as foreshadowed in *The Times*, represents a shift of opinion in the Government which has maintained that law officers should be outside the committee's remit.

Further evidence from other bodies indicates the committee's widening of interest in the subject.

The Police Federation, which will appear on Monday to answer questions about the law relating to public order, processions and public meetings, is also giving evidence in public on deaths in police custody.

The Coroners' Society and the British Association in Forensic Medicine will be appearing on Thursday.

The Metropolitan Police and the Association of Chief Police Officers will provide evidence about public order on February 18.

MP supports parents over sex education

By Our Education Correspondent

Mr George Gardiner, a Conservative backbench MP, has tabled a clause to the Government's Education Bill which would give parents the right to know what their children are being taught in sex education classes, and to withdraw them if they wish.

Mr Gardiner, MP for Reigate, said: "Some of the sex education material available today makes parents' hair stand on end if they ever see it. I possess printed material that even treats bestiality and incest in a totally neutral and amoral way."

If parents want to adopt this approach, then so be it. But if they want to give their children sexual guidance in a context of moral values and responsibility, then they should be able to reject any school courses of a strictly functional, amoral nature that conflict with this."

Mr Gardiner cited *Make It Happen*, by Jane Cousins, as an example of a book which treated bestiality and incest in an amoral way. The book, published by Virago and designed to give guidance on a wide range of sexual matters to children aged between 13 and 16, won *The Times Educational Supplement's* senior information book award last year. It has sold more than 10,000 copies since it was published 18 months ago.

Many parents have been shocked by its explicit treatment of taboo subjects.

Controls on college courses to be tighter

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Strict criteria for the approval of new advanced courses in polytechnics and other maintained colleges will be sent to local education authorities in a circular from the Department of Education and Science next week.

All advanced courses in the maintained sector have to be approved by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, who has the complementary power to direct that courses be discontinued.

In practice, controls are operated by regional staff inspectors, except in the case of teacher training courses.

The department would consult local authorities about its proposals for the medium and long term.

In the short term, no new courses would be approved unless there was clear evidence of unmet student demand; and no new course, or amendment to an existing one, would be approved unless existing

resources of staff in post, equipment and accommodation were adequate.

The only exception which might be considered would be a course to meet an expressed vocational need and provide students with specific employment opportunities, the circular says.

Courses recruiting for the first time in 1980 or 1981 would be expected to achieve, or come close to, the minimum enrolment figure for advanced courses of 24 students. Few exceptions would be made. Existing courses would also be expected to adhere to the specified minimum enrolment figure, although there would be some flexibility.

All courses, including teacher training courses, would be reviewed in the light of similar courses in other institutions. Undue duplication would be avoided.

The Government has announced that it will hold the "pool" for home students in advanced further education in the maintained sector at £375m in 1980-81, which is about the same as in 1979-80, but nine per cent less than the local authorities were asking for.

The introduction of full cost fees for foreign students next September could have a dramatic effect on provision.

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PARLIAMENT, February 8, 1980

Warning from former minister of effect of proposed change in law on time limit for abortions

House of Commons

In its current form the Abortion (Amendment) Bill would lead to more mothers dying at child birth, more children being born handicapped, more unwanted and unloved children, and more social problems, Mr David Williams (Norwich, North, Lab.), former Secretary of State for Social Security, said at the report stage of the Bill began.

He was moving a new clause which would amend the Infant Life (Preservation) Act of 1929 by replacing the words "child capable of being born alive" with "child capable of sustaining independent life" and stating that a child was capable of sustaining independent life if and only if the woman has been pregnant for a period of 24 weeks or more.

The new clause was considered with an amendment to Clause 2 (Termination of pregnancy without regard to time limit under section 1 in certain grave cases) replacing the words "being born alive" with "sustaining independent life".

Mr Williams said this discussion concerned the issue of what was life. Did life in the sense of terminating life begin at conception? It could be argued that every part of a person's body was alive. Nobody would say that no part of a live human being should be removed under any circumstances. Some men and women had the heart, kidneys or eyes of another human being now dead, carried out at the right time, and the children born congenitally handicapped for the same reasons, sometimes grossly malformed.

What was life in the context of the Bill? No one would be evil enough to wish to destroy a human life. Every human being had a right to life.

Surely, he said, a live child was one capable of sustaining a minimal existence. The child was the thing they sought to set forth in the new clause and amendment.

He claimed that the Bill, if it contained Clause 1 without the amendment and the new clause, it would mean more back-street abortions, more deaths of women, to the children whose objective would be to earn their living as they did before the 1967 Act at the expense of an unwanted pregnant woman, with abortions performed not only outside the law but sometimes in dangerous and insanitary circumstances.

Public opinion was telling about (he said) and some people have used those emotional terms. This Bill, unless we are able to change it, is likely to promote murder.

No doctor was happy to perform a late abortion and only felt justified in performing abortions in exceptional circumstances on this issue spoke in a united way. In making a law that would be binding on doctors, the House should understand the dilemma in which they would be placed if the Bill went through.

"What is life?" was the deepest moral issue the House faced and MPs as representatives of their constituents, must face up to the moral problems with courage.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab.) said the reason they had sought to deal with the controversial issue of viability was partly because of cases of a foetus on a slab which made a noise and it was therefore assumed that the foetus was viable and capable of independent life.

These cases had repeatedly hit the headlines and one after another they had been shot down by independent medical opinions and investigations by the Department of Health.

It was therefore proposed to re-define viability, mainly to ensure that a doctor would not be prosecuted for aborting a foetus which showed signs of life but which nevertheless was incapable of sustaining an independent existence.

Sir Bernard Braine (South-East Essex, C), said every day of the week there were abortions on demand either in private clinics or, in some cases, NHS hospitals. He said he had a great form, certificate A, which had to be completed by two doctors acting in good faith. In this case, a doctor who referred his patient to a well-known hospital saying that in his opinion there were no grounds for termination, but that the doctor ought to be considered a termination was carried out, and the certificate in question was signed by two doctors.

The discharge certificate, which was sent to the patient's general practitioner, gave as the diagnosis: "That is, an illegal operation. The law has not been complied with by the doctor who carried it out. This sort of thing is illegal, it is disgraceful, and it is taking place every day of the week."

Mr Gwyneth Danvers (Croydon, Lab.) said she should like to know why confidential records of any case of that kind, which presumably are the responsibility of the doctor involved, should be made public. She said that relationship, came into his possession.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, Lib.), said Sir Bernard Braine's amendment to sections 1 and 2 of the 1967 Abortion Act had been broken. That seemed a good thing to enforce the rule of law, but it did not seem to add up to a case to change a law which is at present not being enforced.

Public opinion would expect them to lower what was thought to be a limit of 28 weeks and create a fresh time limit for abortions of 24 weeks. If the Bill had done only that it would have had general consent. He regretted it

did not because the Bill at present was "messy".

If they could not get out of the mess at this stage the Government should consider in the next session bringing forward as a matter of general law reform a provision which would resolve wide assent of the House to lower the limit to 24 weeks. If not, they must see whether they could do it in this Bill.

If they made that adjustment and nothing else they would improve the law.

De Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health (Reading, South, Lab.), said the Bill would be no absolute evidence that a foetus was viable, only prima facie evidence.

For those who wanted to change the period to 24 weeks, he would advise they support a later amendment which would achieve what they desired and reject the new clause.

Mr Stanley Orme, Opposition spokesman on health (Salford, West, Lab.), speaking personally, said he was in favour of the 24-week amendment. It might be better for the House to have a clear vote and decision on that and not cloud the issue on the new clause.

The new clause was negatived. Miss Josephine Richardson (Barking, Lab.) said she wanted to provide that an abortion could not be performed after a woman had been pregnant for 27 weeks. The Bill specified 24 weeks.

With it were considered two other amendments, one to increase the period to 24 weeks and another to increase the period to 27 weeks. The present law specifies 28 weeks.

She said that although there was a large volume of opinion in this country, medical and otherwise, which now accepted 24 weeks, there was room for a majority in the House of Commons to support the 27-week amendment.

She hoped MPs would reject decisively the 20 and 22 weeks, and seriously consider her proposal for 27 weeks, passed at 25. The Bill was reduced to 24 weeks by one week. It was a woman to make an error of four weeks in calculating the age of the foetus.

Mr Charles Morrison (Dorset, C) said the vast majority of people were more concerned about the time limit than any other part of the Bill. It was a pity that the Bill was not limited to this question and he hoped that should it not come into effect, the Government would consider the suggestion that it should itself introduce a short Bill to cover the time limit.

If the time was reduced to 20 weeks that would doubtless mean in practice that many doctors would consider it not worth the considerable less, probably 17 or 18 weeks, simply as a result of their understandable and justifiable fear of the law.

The consequence would be a growth in illegal abortions just as the pregnant woman was entering the most difficult period of the pregnancy. It would be bound to increase suffering and perhaps mortality.

The report stage was adjourned until Friday, February 9.

House adjourned, 3.3 pm.

Law Report February 8 1980

Court of Appeal

'Signature' on partnership cheque

Ringham & Hackett and Another Before Lord Justice Megaw, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Ormrod.

(Judgments delivered February 4)

Where a cheque drawn on a partnership bank account bore the printed name of the partnership, the signature of one partner on the cheque from the other partner, and the payee took the cheque from the drawer's bank and sought payment, the payee was not liable to the partnership for the amount of the cheque from the other partner, since there was a sufficient signature on the cheque for the purpose of the statute.

The inquiry was expected to last for three months, but Mr Komlosy said: "Proceedings are taking longer than expected and therefore an extended programme has been arranged."

He said that extra surveys, statistics and plans were being prepared by the NWFA to give additional information on its proposals.

Mr Komlosy said the expected finishing date would now be early May, although a further week would be spent visiting the sites.

Nuclear Fuels Ltd has a similar plan for Waste Water to meet its need for water at the Windscale nuclear plant. Both plans are strongly opposed.

The inquiry, which began on January 15, is considering two schemes to raise the levels of Ennerdale Water and West Water, in the Lake District.

The North West Water Authority wants more water for industrial west Cumbria and to take it from Ennerdale Water, while British

Mr Michael Norman for Mr Walsley; Mr Jonathan Marks for the plaintiff; and Lord Justice Megaw said that in July 1977, Mr Hackett and Mr Walsley set up a partnership business, the business, they opened an account at Lloyds Bank, Canford Cliffs, in the name of the partnership, two cheques were issued by Hackett/Walsley Promotions, printed on each cheque, it was agreed that the bank would pass any cheque signed by one partner.

Mr Hackett wrote and signed a crossed cheque to the plaintiff for £500 as payment for two stage Exchange Act, unknown to Mr Walsley and in such circumstances that he would have disappeared if he had known. Mr Hackett then disappeared and Mr Walsley told the bank not to honour any cheques drawn by him. When the plaintiff went to the bank to cash the £500, he was told that the bank had orders not to pay, but that he could cash his own cheque at the bank or pay it into the Canford Cliffs bank on a paying-in slip to go through his own bank in due course.

Walsley was liable to the plaintiff for the £500.

Mr Norman submitted that although it might be banking practice that the signature of one partner on a cheque with the signature of another partner on it bound the other partner, that was not the true position in law. By section 23(2) of the Bills of Exchange Act, the other partner was only liable if the firm signed the cheque, and for that to happen had to be some link on the face of the cheque between the manuscript signature and the printed name of the bank, such as "pp" before the printed words.

His Lordship did not think any such link was required. It was a necessary inference that a partner who signed his name under the printed name was making a statement to the firm and all its partners.

Mr Norman's other main point was that the cheque had not been presented to the bank as required by section 45. He argued that a crossed cheque could only be presented by passing it through

a bank account. That was not correct. There was no mystique about the issue of crossed cheques in terms of the 1882 Act. All that was required was compliance with the provisions of section 45, and something like a demand by the holder to a responsible person in the paying bank. That had been done in the present case. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, concurring, said that section 23 had been interpreted in *Goodman v. J. Eban Ltd* (1954) 1 QB 550. 557, where there was a particular document to be signed by a person, then, prima facie, the requirement of the Act is satisfied if the person himself places upon the document an engraved representation of his signature by pen or pencil, and the document, one's name or 'signature' so as personally to authenticate the document.

Where the printed name was accompanied by a manuscript signature, it was prima facie evidence that the signature was being drawn on the account, it purported to be drawn on. Mr Walsley had not rebutted the presumption.

It seemed to be generally thought that a payee could only present a crossed cheque by paying it into a bank account, and that was a misconception. The provisions as to crossed cheques in the 1882 Act (sections 43 and 44) were intended to protect the bank and its customer; they had no impact on the payee. If the latter presented a crossed cheque to the bank, he might not get his money, but it was no less a presentation for that.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD, also concurring, said that "sign" in section 23 had a much wider than its literal meaning. That was clear from other sections in the Act, eg section 91.

The appeal was dismissed with costs.

Solicitors: Coles, Poole & Watts, Vantage & Vallance.

Postman stole boat people fund donations

By Arthur Reed

A postman who stole more than 800 packages from a sorting office, including 500 of donations to an appeal for the Vietnamese boat people, was jailed by Mr Justice Cohn at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for three years.

The judge said the extent of Terrance Crabbs' offences was colossal. "But the nastiest of all was when you robbed a charity appeal which the public had taken very much to its heart at the time," he added.

Mr Crabbs, aged 25, of Bigland Street, Whitechapel, London, pleaded guilty to four specimen charges of theft from the sorting office at King Edward's Buildings, Giltspur Street, City. He asked for 871 offences to be considered.

Chief inspector finds missing girl in street

Suzanne Ward, aged 15, the schoolgirl who had been missing for two weeks was found safe and well at Bournemouth yesterday and taken to her parents' home at Bushey, Hertfordshire.

Her sister Caroline said that Suzanne was discovered by Chief Inspector Robert Green, who had gone to Bournemouth to help to look for her.

"He spotted her in the street as he was driving to the local police station. He had told us it would take two or three days at least to find her, but he just saw her walking alone."

British Airways to convert light vehicles to gas

By Arthur Reed

In an effort to reduce operational costs, British Airways is to convert several hundred of its light commercial vehicles to run on propane gas.

An investigation into the merits of driving on gas rather than petrol had been made over three months by Mr Dick Hatfield, the airline's general manager, motor transport and ground equipment.

In November, his company Rover car was converted to run on propane.

It will cost between £250 and £300 to convert each British Airways vehicle to run on gas.

Welsh villages 'in constant fear' of floods

From Our Correspondent

Cardiff

Villagers in the South Wales valleys who are facing their second serious flood in six weeks said yesterday that they were living in constant fear because of lack of action by the authorities.

A further 24 hours of torrential rain large areas of South Wales from the Neath valley in West Glamorgan to Gwent were threatened by floods. Late yesterday the water was beginning to subside, although flood alerts were still in operation in some areas.

But, with more rain forecast, many villagers believe the situation could get worse. According to the meteorological office at Cardiff airport, the average rainfall for February is less than two-and-a-half inches. So far this month nearly three inches have fallen.

The worst affected area was the Rhondda. At Trebaford residents protested at a meeting arranged at short notice with representatives of the Welsh Water Authority and local councils.

Mr Graham Prosser, chairman of the village flood prevention committee, said it was a very angry meeting. "People are living in fear of their lives," he said. "It would cost about £250,000 to make their village safe. They had been assured that a full inspection of the work required would be carried out on Monday."

The 250 villagers of Rhondda, who have still not recovered from the last inundation on December 27, were facing a full emergency alert which is not due to be lifted until tonight if there is no more rain.

The village was cut off yesterday morning after a culvert carrying the small river Selsig

was blocked. Residents filled sandbags because county council workmen were on strike. Later the workmen were allowed to help.

Some 200 villagers occupied the Rhondda council offices at Pontreif protesting at the risk they face from floods.

Mr Marylyn Evans, aged 27, who is married, with a two-year-old son and expecting another child in May, whose husband gave the alarm early yesterday, said: "This proves our point. People are beginning to live on their nerves. The community spirit is there but people are getting tense. It is only natural, living with the constant fear of floods and possibly a landslide."

Mr Gwyn Evans, Rhondda Borough Council chief executive, said the council had put a scheme costing £400,000 for the village to the Welsh Office five weeks ago.

Two Ulster men were remanded in custody at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday on charges arising from the kidnapping last month of a bank manager's wife and two daughters.

Henry Doherty and Vincent Feagan, both aged 21, with Dublin addresses, will appear again in court on March 3. The court rejected applications for bail because of "the probability that they would not stand trial."

Mr Doherty and Mr Feagan each face three charges: robbery of £30,000 from Mr Thomas Scully, an Allied Irish Bank manager in Dublin; demanding £100,000 with threats from him; and falsely imprisoning his daughter, Anne, aged 17.

Warder who stole clothes gets suspended sentence

From Our Correspondent

York

Jeffrey Conyers, aged 53, a prison officer, was given a suspended jail sentence of nine months by Judge Dean, QC, at York Crown Court, sitting at Knaresborough yesterday after being convicted of theft.

Mr Conyers, a former secretary of Hull Prison Officers' Association, worked in the reception area of Hull prison between 1974 and 1975. He had sold more than 10,000 copies since it was published 18 months ago.

Many parents have been shocked by its explicit treatment of taboo subjects.

Two remanded on Dublin kidnap charges

Two Ulster men were remanded in custody at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday on charges arising from the kidnapping last month of a bank manager's wife and two daughters.

School in turban lawsuit has two Sikh pupils, court told

From Our Correspondent

Birmingham

A private school in Birmingham that banned a Sikh boy, aged 13, because he wore a turban, has two Sikh boys attending classes, it was stated at Birmingham County Court yesterday.

Canon Norman Power, who teaches religious education at the Park Grove private school in Edgbaston, said he had boys of various creeds and nationalities, and "the two Sikh boys at the school did not wear their hair long, or turbans. They conformed to the normal standards of the school."

Canon Power was the first defence witness in an action

brought by Mr Sewa Singh Mandla, a Birmingham solicitor, and his son against the school, and A. G. Dewell Lee, its headmaster, claiming they had been unfairly discriminated against.

THE TIMES BIRTHS COLUMN
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Saturday Review

The path to the Nile

by
Richard Hall

Florence had long grown used to the noisome realities of camp life, the heat, stink and vermin, animals being slaughtered, skinned, eviscerated and cut up, malcontents being beaten. She found little scope for privacy.

When they were on the march, she dressed in loosely-cut breeches and knee-high gaiters. Unlike Sam, who left his massive arms bare almost to the shoulders, she wore a long-sleeved blouse, belted at the waist. Both of them were heavily tanned, which only made more striking their blue eyes and fair hair, a constant source of wonderment to African tribesmen. The villagers were acquainted with the Arabs—who because they were merely brown were called "white men". To prove that the colour of his face was deceptive, that he was a "very white man", Sam would take off his shirt; it was a sporting gesture that evoked yells of amusement.

Quite often, Florence in her breeches and gaiters was assumed to be the young son of Sam. Once they were surrounded by a crowd of several hundred Africans who imagined they were "Turks" looking for ivory or slaves. A hunchback who knew some Arabic acted as interpreter and began roaring quizzically at Florence. Sam explained that she was his wife. "Your wife! What a lie!" he roared. The more Sam insisted, the louder the hunchback responded. "Katab!"—"What a lie!"

Usually, when a chief came to see them, Florence would unpack a dress and change into it, and Sam would wear a light silk jacket, add ceremony to the occasion, a Persian carpet was laid out on the floor of the tent.

One day, Sam decided to try a different effect. He brought out his Highland costume—an Atholl kilt, sporran, socks and bonnet. When he had put it on, he stuck several ostrich feathers in the bonnet for good measure. Sam noted with satisfaction that the visiting chief, "naked as he was born", looked completely dumbfounded.

Among the Obbo tribe, good relations were established with an old chief called Katchiba. He was a splendid musician and played upon an eight-stringed guitar for the newcomers during his first visit to them. They thought it the sweetest melody they had heard anywhere in Africa. Katchiba was a great hunter as well, and despite his years would dance and perform a variety of antics at the least provocation. He was also renowned as a rainmaker and because the rains seemed to be stopping early, and Sam and Florence were in a hurry to get on, he was being pressed by his people to bring on a deluge.

Rather anxiously, Katchiba discussed the demand with Sam through an interpreter and at last decided to blow four blasts on his reemaking whistle. In search of supplementary magic, he asked pleadingly whether the white man used whistles.

This gave Sam a chance to show off one of his talents: he put his fingers in his mouth and produced the ear-splitting sound that he used, when hunting in Scotland, to call his hounds. Luckily for both of them, there was a thunderstorm four days later.

Among the gifts which delighted Katchiba was the last of the expedition's rescues, a plate and a pair of green goggles. He was also entranced by a card covered in shirt buttons, to which Florence attached a string so that he might wear it around his neck. But there was one object in the tent that Katchiba coveted most of all—the chamber-pot, which had survived so many vicissitudes. He explained that it would be a splendid receptacle for serving meals on.

An activity in which Sam was always willing to engage, to entertain all comers, was sketching. He was good at making instant likenesses, and enjoyed letting his fancy run free. One day he drew a girl with three breasts—"A regular screamer," as the Yankees would say.

The Bakers spent months with Katchiba, and once when elephants were ravaging the gardens around the village, Sam volunteered to try and shoot some. It was impossible to follow the elephants into their hiding places by day, because the grass was too high, so he decided to dig a grave-like trench in the gardens and wait there with his most massive gun, the "Baby".

In the middle of the night, he could hear from the trench the huge herd rampaging in the gardens, but everything was too indistinct for a shot. He held his fire, until one elephant came lumbering to within 12 paces of the hole. Baker picked up his



Top left: a detail from one of Baker's watercolours, showing Baker and Florence being entertained by a tribal dance. Bottom left: the earliest surviving photograph of Florence, aged 24.

Left: Baker and Florence, 1867.

gun, then whistled so that the animal would turn and give him a chance to shoot at the shoulder. He fired. The gun flashed and roared in the night and he heard the elephant fall. But was it dead? Sam sensed that his position was too dangerous to make a move, so he felt he must wait until dawn.

As the light began to grow and the first birds sang, he saw Florence coming down the path from the village, leading men armed with axes and knives. She had heard the gun and was bringing a party to cut up the anticipated carcass. But the elephant was not yet quite dead—it had got to its feet and was standing among the tall grass. As its human adversaries moved closer there was a thud: it had crumpled heavily to the ground and died. Before allowing it to be cut up, Sam sent for his tape measure. The bull was 10 ft 6 in. from foot to shoulder, and one of the tusks was 6 ft 6 in. long.

As the rains dragged on, Sam and Florence suffered more and more from malaria. It became a struggle to do the most simple jobs around the camp—mending the tent or their clothes, boiling down fat to make soap, or "tinkering" to make rings and bracelets that could be used as presents.

With brief interludes, the end of 1863 passed by in a haze. Sam was in worse condition than Florence, on December 27 he wrote "I have fever again" and against each of the four next days there is just a single-word entry: "Fever." But with the New Year came drier weather and the chance to move south. Sam took one of the few remaining doses of quinine in the medicine chest, so that he would be strong enough to mount a ridge or soon the expedition was at a latitude well beyond any point reached before by Europeans coming from the north. The only people who had preceded them were a few bands of Arab marauders, making tentative probes toward a group of powerful African kingdoms, about which they knew no more than the rumours picked up from local tribesmen.

But finally Baker was able to write with pride in his diary on January 22: "Marched 65 40m, reaching the Somerset river, or Victoria White Nile. I never made so tedious a journey, owing to the delays of grass, streams and deep swamps, but since we gained the forest these obstacles were not so numerous. Many tracks of elephants, rhinoceros and buffaloes; but we saw nothing. Halted eighty feet above the river; altitude above sea-level, by observation, 3,864ft."

Beyond the opposite bank now shrouded in mist, lay the capital of King Kamrasi, only a few marches distant. On him their fortunes rested, for some how he must be bribed and flattered into letting them make the journey to the south-west, towards where the Luta N'zige lake was said to lie.

They crossed the river in dugout canoes and prepared to meet Kamrasi. He would surely reward the final mystery: how far was it to the lake?

King Kamrasi proved to be a large man, whose protuberant eyes gave him a peculiar cast of features. The king also had, in Baker's view, quite peculiar ideas. Yes, the white man could go to look for the lake, but the white woman must stay behind. Kamrasi wanted her for his wife. He was ready, however, to hand over several wives of his own in exchange.

This proposition was to come at the end of several weeks in Kamrasi's clutches. From their dwindling reservoir of supplies, gifts were yielded up to him one by one: a Persian carpet, 15ft square, a double-barrelled rifle, shoes, a Kashmir shawl, several pairs of socks, the yellow muslin handkerchief Florence wore on her head, then handful after handful of necklaces and bracelets.

For his part, Kamrasi was a grudging host, keeping his visitors in muddy huts in a mosquito-ridden swamp outside his capital. Suspicious about their assurances that nothing for him was left, he made them unpack their portmanteaux—where what Sam bitterly called "the family linen"



was revealed as no more than a few ragged towels.

So now Kamrasi wanted Florence. At this, Sam took out a revolver, strode over to the startled king and put the gun 3ft from his chest. Weak with fever, yet wild with rage, he told Kamrasi that he would shoot him there and then if the demand were repeated. Florence also jumped up and belaboured the king in Arabic (which he did not understand), with an expression Sam thought was about as amiable as Medusa's head. Finally, their woman interpreter, who knew Kamrasi's language but came from a hostile tribe, added her voice to the altercation.

Realizing that he was stepping beyond the mark, Kamrasi switched to more mundane requests. He fancied the kilt which Sam had worn to impress him, and his compass. He could risk anything, another year in this hell. "But without it, death was a 'simple certainty'. As an afterthought he scrawled: 'My own men would burn journals and seal my guns.' He trembled for Florence, but she scorned any thought of turning back.

Kamrasi was aware of the risks they would take by setting off for the Luta N'zige. "Go if you wish, but don't blame me if you can't get back," he told them. "It is twenty days, you may believe it as you like. So now they know how long it would take to make the trip, if they could survive it."

The expedition set out again, marching doggedly on: Sam, Florence, followed by two negro servants, Saad and Richman, next two slave women, the interpreter, and then twelve Arab guards. The Arabs were by now totally sceptical about the lake and were almost resigned to being led to their deaths.

One day in early March the travellers came to a swamp, its surface covered with a matted layer of water-grass and plants. This covering, about two feet thick, acted as a bridge, as long as you did not pause too long in any one spot. The porters ran swiftly across, sinking up to their ankles, and Sam began the journey, urging Florence to keep close behind him. The natural bridge was only eighty paces wide.

Sam was a quarter of the way over when he turned to see how Florence was coping. She had stopped, her face contorted and purple. Her legs were gradually sinking through the reeds. At the instant he saw her she began to double up and fall, "as though shot dead."

Sam strode back over the weeds, took hold of her seemingly lifeless body, then shouted for help. With several of his men he dragged her across the surface, keeping her head just over the water; if they had tried to carry her, despite the lightness of her weight, all would have sunk through the weeds and become trapped. When they were on solid ground, Sam picked her up and walked to the shade of a tree.

It seemed as though she might simply have fainted, and Sam bashed her forehead with water. But it was something more—her hands were tightly clenched, and so were her teeth, but her eyes were wide and staring. She was in the throes of a seizure, caused by the sun and exhaustion.

Most of the porters were now further ahead on the path, so Sam ordered Saad to run forward and find an angreep (a portable wooden bedstead) on which she might be carried to the next village. Saad was also told to bring back a bag with clothes, because Florence had become soaked from head to foot while being dragged through the water. While he waited, Sam put his hand inside her shirt and massaged her heart; the slave women rubbed her feet. But nothing would move her respond. She lay like a corpse.

When Saad returned, Sam put new clothes on her and she was lifted on to the angreep. Then the procession moved forwards with funeral slowness. As they walked, he put his hand under her head and held it high, for the sounds in her throat showed that she might choke. There was nothing more to be done until they reached a village, and there Florence was set down in a dark hut. Sam forced open her jaws and pushed a small piece of wood between her teeth. He saw that her tongue was completely dry, so he put a rag into her mouth and dripped water on to it to moisten her mouth. As the night wore on she never moved.

By morning, Florence was unchanged. Sam counted her breathing, faint but regular, about five times a minute. In his diary he wrote: "F seems to have congestion of the brain."

There was no food in the village, so he knew it was impossible to stay there. Florence could not help because it was on the extreme borders of Buganda and King Mutesa's soldiers had plundered the vil-



lages, most of which stood deserted. There was no food. As they travelled through the forests, searches were made for honey. Sam walked on closely and feverish, while Florence groaned and cried on the angreep. One evening, when they came to a village, it seemed certain that she would die in her delirium. Sam told his men to put a new handle on the pickaxe and to look for a place to dig the grave. Then he fell down on to a mat and went to sleep, at the last point of exhaustion. There was nothing to be done.

In later years, Florence would relate how she returned to consciousness to hear the sound of hooves and muzzles, as the men worked on her grave. But when Sam awoke, to see the sunlight coming through the door of the hut, he jumped up in alarm, feeling sure that she must have died while he slept, and he had not been with her. A first glance seemed to confirm his fears, because she lay with a look of serenity on her features; they seemed like marble. But then he saw her breast rising and falling steadily—the agonized movements of her recent days were gone. At that moment her eyes opened briefly and she stared up at Sam with a clear calmness he never thought to see again.

For two days the expedition halted. There was almost nothing to be bought except eggs, and from these Sam made a soup that Florence was able to swallow. She was still perilously weak, and entirely unaware of how long she had been unconscious since collapsing in the swamp; but her mind was fully restored.

Although later Sam was to recount fully the story of Florence's escape from death, his diary entries at the time were terse and factual. For March 4, 1864, the day when the crisis passed, he only wrote: "Marched, five hours, forty minutes, due West. Country much wooded, thick and thorny. F. woke up from her delirium."

When Florence was well enough to be carried, the cavalcade moved on again. It was travelling along the top of a ridge, beside a swamp nearly

sixteen miles wide. Far away to the west were the outlines of high mountains and it seemed that these would have to be crossed before the Luta N'zige lake was reached. This was a daunting thought, for the expedition was journeying at a height of almost 4,000 feet, and the mountains seemed decidedly more than that. Perhaps the stories that the lake was six months' journey away were true after all; Kamrasi had said twenty days, but nothing from him could be relied upon. It was impossible to gain precise information from local guides, who made a fetish of secrecy.

One day they reached a village which the exhausted Sam understood to be called Parkaoi. The local people now insisted that the lake was near at hand, although Baker could barely hide his mistrust, for the tall mountains still lay ahead. Then his guide revealed that the mountains were on the far side of the lake: if they started early in the morning, they could wash in the lake before midday. (In fact, Parkaoi was not the name of the village—it was a word meaning "very close").

That night, Baker could scarcely sleep for excitement, and he aroused the whole expedition before dawn. The guide was promised two precious handfuls of beads if they were truly going to stand beside the lake that day; he responded by taking the lead at a swiftness pace. Florence was still being borne on an angreep and Baker, fighting back his fever, was astride the last riding ox. Their followers struggled along in the rear.

After the sun had risen they climbed a hill—and a quarter of a mile below them was the lake. "The glory of our prize was suddenly upon me! There, like a sea of quicksilver, lay far beneath the grand expanse of water..." It seemed that it stretched endlessly away to the south and west and was at least 50 miles wide. The mountains rose high from the opposite shore and through his telescope Baker could see waterfalls cascading down them. He had planned that if ever they

should reach the Luta N'zige he should lead his men in three hearty cheers "in the tradition of Old England". But when it came to it, he could not.

Sam and Florence just stood and stared. Their followers, clustered around them, poured out excited comments. Two of the Arabs who had been to Alexandria and seen the Mediterranean—now more than three thousand miles away—said the lake was just like the sea.

The path to the water was steep and twisting. It could only be tackled on foot, so Florence took a large sick in one hand and rested the other on Sam's shoulder. Every twenty paces she was forced to halt and recover her strength, until after two hours they were beneath the rocky granite face and came to a wide sandy plain. It was still more than a mile through trees and shrubs, over rough grass, to the lake's edge.

Florence followed Sam, who in the exultation of the moment was striding on to where the wavelets broke on the shore. She had prepared in her own way for this moment: that morning she had put a ribbon in her hair, a ribbon with the red, white and green colours of Hungary. Now she took it off and tied it to the branch of a bush near the water's edge. The symbol of the country to which she would never return fluttered in the breeze of the lake.

Sam was now far ahead, silhouetted in the lakeside, his expanse sparkling in the morning sun. He later recalled: "I rushed into the lake, and thirsty with heat and fatigue, drank deeply from the Sources of the Nile." He knew that at last, at the age of forty-two, he was something more than just a sporting gentleman and after-dinner reconnoiter. His name as an African explorer would now stand alongside those of Livingstone, Speke, Grant and Burton.

Richard Hall has adapted this article from his book *Lovers on the Nile*, which will be published by Collins on February 25th at £7.95.

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BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Cast includes: ELIZABETH CONNELL, THOMAS HERNDON,
PHILIP LANGRIDGE, BARRY MORA, GUNTER REICH,
DAVID WILSON-JOHNSON, BBC SINGERS

(Please note change of cast)

E.S. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

MONDAY, 18 FEBRUARY at 8 p.m.

In the presence of H.R.H. The Duke of Kent

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY

Conductor: MEREDITH DAVIES

BACH: St. John Passion

Jane Manning, David Wilson-Johnson, Helen Watts, Richard Morton,
Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Malcolm King

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS

E.S. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Wednesday 20 February at 8 p.m.

MICHAEL GIELEN

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MAHLER: Symphony No. 4

MOZART: Serenade in C major (K.368)

GIELEN: Penultimate (UK premiere)

(Please note change of programme & artist)

KARIN OTT SARAH WALKER

PHILIP LANGRIDGE STEPHEN ROBERTS

KARLHEINZ DONAUER

E.S. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents

by arrangement with Harold Holt Ltd.

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY at 8 p.m.

PRAGUE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Conductor: JIRI BELOHLAVEK

BORIS MONOSZON: violin

Suite from "The Cunning Little Vixen" JANACEK

Violin Concerto in D SIBELIUS

Symphony No. 9 (from "The New World") DVORAK

E.S. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

SUNDAY, 24th FEBRUARY at 3.15 p.m.

Fauré PAVANE

Mendelssohn VIOLIN CONCERTO in E minor

GYORGY PAUK violin

Fauré REQUIEM

Marie McLaughlin, soprano. Stephen Roberts, baritone.

LONDON SYMPHONY CHORUS. CITY OF LONDON SYMPHONY

RICHARD HICKOX conductor

E.S. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

SUNDAY, 2 MARCH at 3.15 p.m.

Ibbs & Tillett

ALICIA DE LARROCHA

ALBENIZ: Suite IBERIA (complete)

E.S. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

MONDAY, 18th MARCH at 8 p.m.

RADIO TELEFIS EIREANN

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

COLMAN FEARCE BERNADETTE GREVY

Olympic Festival Overture. Gerard Victory

Lieder class Schubert Gesellies. MAHLER

Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64. TCHAIKOVSKY

E.S. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

TCHAIKOVSKY

Management: IBS & TILLET

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

TOMORROW, at 7.15 p.m.

CHRISTIANE EDINGER

GERHARD FUCHTEL piano

SCHUBERT: Sonata in A, Op. 162

BACH: Solo Sonata in C, BWV 1005

WEBER: Four Pieces, Op. 7

PROKOFIEV: Sonata No. 3 in D, Op. 9a

E.S. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

MONDAY NEXT 11 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

Schütz Choir of London

Sing Monteverdi's Madrigals of Love and War

London Baroque Players

Roger Norrington director

For details see South Bank panel

TUESDAY NEXT, 12 FEBRUARY, at 7.45 p.m.

MAURICE HASSON, violin

IAN BROWN, piano

MOZART: Sonata No. 8 in C, K.30

BACH: Sonata No. 1 in G minor for solo violin, BWV 1001

BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 2, Op. 10 No. 3

FAURE: Sonata No. 3 in D, Op. 9a

E.S. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

WEDNESDAY NEXT, 13th FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

JOHN SOLUM

The Complete Works for Solo Flute and Orchestra

Concerto in G, K.313; Concerto in D, K.314; Andante in C, K.315

Concerto in A, K.316; Concerto in E, K.317

Concerto in F, K.318; Concerto in G, K.319

Concerto in A, K.320; Concerto in B, K.321

Concerto in C, K.322; Concerto in D, K.323

Concerto in E, K.324; Concerto in F, K.325

Concerto in G, K.326; Concerto in A, K.327

Concerto in B, K.328; Concerto in C, K.329

Concerto in D, K.330; Concerto in E, K.331

Concerto in F, K.332; Concerto in G, K.333

Concerto in A, K.334; Concerto in B, K.335

Concerto in C, K.336; Concerto in D, K.337

Concerto in E, K.338; Concerto in F, K.339

Concerto in G, K.340; Concerto in A, K.341

Concerto in B, K.342; Concerto in C, K.343

Concerto in D, K.344; Concerto in E, K.345

Concerto in F, K.346; Concerto in G, K.347

Concerto in A, K.348; Concerto in B, K.349

Concerto in C, K.350; Concerto in D, K.351

Concerto in E, K.352; Concerto in F, K.353

Concerto in G, K.354; Concerto in A, K.355

Concerto in B, K.356; Concerto in C, K.357

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Concerto in F, K.360; Concerto in G, K.361

Concerto in A, K.362; Concerto in B, K.363

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Concerto in E, K.366; Concerto in F, K.367

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Concerto in B, K.370; Concerto in C, K.371

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Concerto in F, K.374; Concerto in G, K.375

Concerto in A, K.376; Concerto in B, K.377

Concerto in C, K.378; Concerto in D, K.379

Concerto in E, K.380; Concerto in F, K.381

Concerto in G, K.382; Concerto in A, K.383

Concerto in B, K.384; Concerto in C, K.385

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Concerto in A, K.432; Concerto in B, K.433

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Concerto in D, K.484; Concerto in E, K.485

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PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

7.40 am Open University. Close down at 8.30.
9.05 Gymnast: The Men's Floor Event (r).
9.30 The Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Includes a phone-in to dramatist David Belfrage, and cartoons, music and general fun.
12.15 pm Weather.
12.30 Football Focus (with Bob Wilson).
12.50 European Four-Man Bobsleigh Championship (from St. Moritz).
1.05, 1.40 and 2.10 International Table Tennis (from Cardiff).
1.20, 1.50 and 2.30, Racing from Newbury.
2.50 and 4.25 International Snooker (the Queen and Redges Masters).
3.30 Rugby League: Wigan v Hull Kingston

BBC 2

7.40 am Open University. Until 2.20 pm.
2.20 Film: All in a Night's Work (1961). Comedy with Dean Martin as the heir to a publishing firm who falls in love with the girl (Shirley MacLaine) he thinks was his late uncle's mistress. Light-weight, but Miss MacLaine is as good as dead.
3.50 The Sky at Night: Patrick Moore and Saturn's rings (r).
4.10 Play Away: Fun and music for children.
4.35 Horizon: Taking the passenger's fear out of flying (r).

London Weekend

8.40 am Sesame Street: Pioneering children's show. With the Muppets (r).
9.40 The Beachcombers: Jesse discovers money does not always buy fun.
10.05 Superman: A fire at the newspaper office. Who-dunnit?
10.30 Tinseltown: (and ex-citable) show for children.
12.30 World of Sport: The live-up in 12.30 on the Ball (Ian St John).
1.00 Athletics (Pan Am International Series, from Australia).
1.15 News. 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00.
3.00 Racing from Wolverhampton. 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 Racing from Cartterick.

FILMS ON TV

With the Winter Olympics beginning on Wednesday the BBC are out to keep happy those who don't like sport by increasing the number of films this week to 12. As President Carter opens the Games on BBC1, BBC2 viewers can watch Cover Girl (Wednesday, 7.50). Charles Vidor's romance with Rita Hayworth and Gene Kelly chasing her shadow dancer nando Rey. Those who can live without the Olympics downhill can see the memorable Will Hay comedy The Goose Steps Out (Thursday, BBC2, 6.00). With

Rovers, 4.20 International Darts (from Stoke-on-Trent). 4.40 Final (r).
5.15 The Pink Panther Show: Cartoons.
5.35 News with Kenneth Kendall.
5.45 Sport.
5.50 Wonder Woman: Lynda Carter is the female Superman. Sabotage and a living dead man's brain.
6.40 Jim'll Fix It: Is Melaine Park as much like Mona Lisa as she thinks she is?
7.15 All Creatures Great and Small: Tristram and the lovely new barnyard.
8.05 The Dick Emery Show: Mr Emery as a high class tramp, frustrated waiter, doctor and policeman, with Pat Coombs.
8.40 Dallas: The return of the

5.25 Mr Smith's Indoor Garden: Geoffrey Smith and the Fire Leaf. 9.30 Playhouse: The Enigma. Malcolm Bradbury's play (from a John Fowles story) about an MP who vanishes (see Personal Choice).
10.40 International Darts: The Embassy World Professional Championship. The final.
11.20 News. 11.35 International Snooker: the concluding moments.
11.55 Film: Harold and Maude (1971). Black comedy with Bud Cort as a death-obsessed young man and Ruth Gordon as the elderly lady with whom he has a strange relationship. Film ends at 1.30 am.

5.45 Enemy at the Door: Post Mortem. The return to Guernsey from Arthur's (Richard Heffer), and a fight that ends in death.
6.45 News and sport.
7.00 Heartland: The Spongers. Susan Platt plays about a woman (Carol Royle) unable to live with her father's neuroticism (Paul Greenwood).
11.00 Saturday Night People: More wit, seasoned with malice, from Russell, Harry, Clive James and Janet Street-Porter.
11.45 Pro-Celebrity Snooker: The Canadian Club Trophy from Leeds. Introduced by Fred Dineage.
12.30 am Close: More readings, by Robert Rietty, from the works of the theologian Nahman of Bratslav.

Peter Ustinov and Charles Hawtrey among the stars. The week includes Bette Davis paired with Humphrey Bogart in Marked Woman (tonight BBC2, 7.15). Hal Ashby's black comedy MASH (tomorrow BBC2, 10.20). Robert Altman's satire on the horrors of Vietnam, disguised as a Korea, which brought Ring Lardner Jr back to writing after years on the blacklist.
The worst clash for movie lovers is, as usual, on Tuesday night when the BBC2 and the magnificent Hollywood (ITV, 9.00) competes with BBC2's art film slot. Between the Lines (Tuesday, BBC2, 9.00) is an admirable film by Joan Micklin

wayward son (Ted Shackelford). See Personal Choice.
9.30 News with Kenneth Kendall.
9.40 Match of the Day: Highlights from today's Football League games.
10.40 Parkinson: His guests are Gerald Durrell, Dennis Waterman, and Mike Harding.
11.40 Alan Price: The singer in concert from Manchester.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales: 5.45 am Sports News. 12.30 am News and Sport. 5.45 am Sports News. 5.50 am Sports News. 6.00 am Sports News. 6.10 am Sports News. 6.20 am Sports News. 6.30 am Sports News. 6.40 am Sports News. 6.50 am Sports News. 7.00 am Sports News. 7.10 am Sports News. 7.20 am Sports News. 7.30 am Sports News. 7.40 am Sports News. 7.50 am Sports News. 8.00 am Sports News. 8.10 am Sports News. 8.20 am Sports News. 8.30 am Sports News. 8.40 am Sports News. 8.50 am Sports News. 9.00 am Sports News. 9.10 am Sports News. 9.20 am Sports News. 9.30 am Sports News. 9.40 am Sports News. 9.50 am Sports News. 10.00 am Sports News. 10.10 am Sports News. 10.20 am Sports News. 10.30 am Sports News. 10.40 am Sports News. 10.50 am Sports News. 11.00 am Sports News. 11.10 am Sports News. 11.20 am Sports News. 11.30 am Sports News. 11.40 am Sports News. 11.50 am Sports News. 12.00 am Sports News. 12.10 am Sports News. 12.20 am Sports News. 12.30 am Sports News. 12.40 am Sports News. 12.50 am 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Travel I

Two sides to Barbados

Having "flown the flag" from Heathrow for several hours, I was certainly anxious to get on to firm ground and begin my visit to the island of Barbados. The flight had been as comfortable as one could expect, but too long on any aircraft is physically and mentally draining experience. And the anticipation of arrival had sharpened my desire to be at journey's end.

Four years had passed since I was last on the island. Four years since I had made my way up Highway One from Bridgetown, north along the languid Caribbean shore. Four years since I had walked along the Atlantic beach near Bathsheba, since I had driven through the fields of tall green sugar cane. During those years I had savoured my memories and they had grown richer with the passing of time. I was most anxious to renew old acquaintance.

My very first minutes on the island were not pleasant ones. A couple of Boeing 747s arrive in quick succession at Grantley Adams Airport, a chaos of monumental proportions ensues—or ensued on the occasion of which I write. My temper was not greatly improved by being told afterwards that all would be smoother and easier "when the extension comes into operation". (It was, in fact, scheduled to handle its first passengers last October, so I hope all is now smoother and easier.)

A hazardous drive through the warm evening—the Bajan taxi driver's attitude towards his and other vehicles, and belief in his supreme ability brought us to the Tamarind Cove hotel, one of many which line the west coast. An excellent place it proved to be, with a mixture of British and north American visitors, and not too large, so a pleasant clublike atmosphere was engendered.

One of the things that always tends to slip the British mind when contemplating the Caribbean, particularly those islands which used to be ours, is that Americans are much in evidence because for them the islands are easy of access. Canadians, too, get down there of modestly priced package deals, and one of the arts of good hotel keeping is to get the balance of nationalities right. The Tamarind Cove had achieved that, at least it



Royal palms on the east coast of Barbados.

had during the time we were there.

It does not take long to settle into a routine under such circumstances, the first few days being spent "unwinding" and taking pleasure simply from the fine weather. How satisfying to walk along the wide coral sands which curve

around the bay and to plunge into the Caribbean.

So the days passed. We became used to the pace of the Caribbean. Or, to put it another way, we stopped fretting about slow service at breakfast. Then we entered upon phase two of the holiday. The "don't let's just lie around here. Let's do something" phase.

What you have to do on Barbados when this point is reached is hire a "Moke" and make the most of mobility. The "Moke" is a vehicle tailor-made for the tropics. Open topped and open sided, it carries you around the eleven parishes, the 166 square miles of Barbados, from one shore to another. South from Tamarind Cove, past Buccanier Bay and Coconut Creek and Paradise Beach, through the tangled traffic of Bridgetown and east past the airport to Crane Beach and the hotel there. Or north along Highway One, through Hoieltown and Speightstown, either to the island's northernmost point and Ant-Mat Flower Cave, or across the parishes of St. James and St. Andrew to the Atlantic Coast.

A pounding, bracing antidote to the Caribbean, this is. Indeed, one of the best things about Barbados is the contrast between the two coastlines, for when the Caribbean—or the rum punch—brings on lassitude, the Atlantic spray and the Atlantic breeze will clear the senses. There are, as I remember, just three hotels on that coast, all near the fishing port of Bathsheba—though "port" is not an accurate word in this context, conjuring up images of jetties and loading sheds. Bathsheba is a delightful place, for its simplicity makes it delightful. Boats are brought close to the shore and the catch is unloaded on to the rocky strand. And there are always boats hauled up on the beach, being painted or repaired.

Of those hotels, I have visited, and would certainly recommend the Sandy Lane (in my opinion, the island's best) the Buccanier Bay, Paradise Beach, and the relatively new Treasure Beach.

Because the Tamarind Cove is a member of the St. James Beach hotel group, it offers its guests exchange dining facilities at the Discovery Bay Inn and the Coty Club, further north. We took advantage of this, as I would recommend any visitor to do, for other hotels have similar arrangements. As on many other islands, the Barbados night life is largely confined to the hotels, and falls into a pattern of steel band entertainment, limbo dancing (which, I am told, originated as an exercise to straighten backs bent in the

cane fields all day) and modest cabaret.

On this visit, I also spent a little time at the Crane Beach hotel, on the south east corner of the island. A lot of renovation work was in progress and some months ago a new manager arrived there, so I have every reason to believe this hotel will prosper remarkably. It deserves to do so, for its location is splendid—high above the beach on which the Atlantic rolls, yet sheltered from the full force of that sea.

Various tour operating companies offer inclusive holidays to Barbados, among them British Airways' Speedbird, many of whose customers were at the Tamarind Cove during my own visit.

It is also possible, of course, to buy an advance purchase excursion air fare, and add on to it accommodation at the hotel of your choice. British Airways and Caribbean Airways both serve the island

from the United Kingdom. Any competent travel agent would be able to help you. If you needed help, to do this, and it is a form of "do-it-yourself" package holiday about which I hope to write in a future article. It is certainly a general development—this linking of a low price air fare to accommodation arranged especially for the individual—that is becoming widespread.

The Barbados Tourist Board, at 6 Upper Belgrave Street, London, SW1X 8AZ, will provide information about the island, and tour companies which offer hotel and villa holidays there.

The central booking office of Prestige Hotels, mentioned by John Carter in his travel article of January 26, is now: Strand House, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9EX (Tel. 01-568 6841).

John Carter

Travel II

Hemingway drank here

It all started on the plane with heady talk about the Spanish Civil War, and Ernest Hemingway and Dorothy Parker and other literary adventure-seekers who spent their time between dispatches in the bars of wartime Madrid. Were those bars still there, we wondered, and could we find them, or at least one, to drink a salutary glass of memories and good times?

We were on our way to a long weekend break in Madrid, a city not known to every man and his neighbour as, say, Paris or Rome, and the prospect was exhilarating. Cities are not always ideal winter places, but when we arrived there was enough sun to make walking in Madrid an invigorating pleasure—particularly as the armies of tourists had not yet descended to fill the restaurants and cafés.

For 1999, Pegasus Holidays (flight by Monarch Airlines) offered a long weekend at the ritzy four star Los Galgos Hotel (English breakfast included) at the posh end of the city. And you can't do better than a long weekend at the ritzy four star Los Galgos Hotel (English breakfast included) at the posh end of the city. And you can't do better than a long weekend at the ritzy four star Los Galgos Hotel (English breakfast included) at the posh end of the city.

It is still early, so off to the Rastro, Madrid's sprawling flea market, to join the tens of thousands thronging the stalls where everything and anything is for sale from shrilly birds in tiny gift cages to furniture and rat. Mostly rat. Everyone pushes and shoves to have only a few hundred Petticoat Lanes. Suddenly it becomes claustrophobic, but how to get away from this jostling multitude? We found a narrow side street that seemed to have only a thousand people in it and walked behind a man pushing his way through, using a huge antiquated brass bedhead as a battering ram. What must it be like when the tourists are here as well and the temperature reaches 100 degrees? Hell could be a better place.

A chilled fino restores the senses and we seek out the quiet of the Royal Palace, all shimmering white against the blue sky.

Then a final look at the city: huge buildings, avenues seven car-lanes wide (and not a parking meter in sight); massive blocks of flats, their drabness softened by rows of washing hanging precariously from window ledges; the jarring note of graffiti, and soft porn magazines leering from bookstalls; throngs outside neon-lit cine-

Next day it was off to the Prado, where we gorged ourselves on the Goyas. Rembrandts and fleshy bits of Rubens' ladies, climbing enough stairs to make you not bother with jogging for a month. The Prado, for all its magnificence, seemed too dark inside, and the paintings dusty.

Out on the street the wind was cold and through our taxi window (we didn't pay more than £1 for short journeys) the bare poplar trees shone

green as if just freshly painted, and the fountains in the fashionable squares played brilliantly in the pale sunshine. Saturday night and dinner in Old Madrid at the Casa Botin in the aptly named Street of the Suckling Pigs, a splendid restaurant on several floors that has served food for 300 years. (On your way up the stairs look into the kitchen at the pork sizzling in the flames in an open oven. Everyone does.) Here you can feast for £3 (even if you get the pig's ear, as I did) including wine served in jugs that are ever filled and be serenaded by troubadours.

Sunday is open air day in Madrid. In the Plaza Mayor the bars around the cobblestone square are full. Inside most of them smoked hams, looking like old lumps of leather, hang from hooks and on ledges are rows of open-topped mishapen bottles full of vino, ready to be poured. It is time for Tapas, bar snacks all Madrileños love: shrimps, marinated mussels, croquettes of cod and scoops of salty rice, served on white saucers. We dipped into each other's, but my favourite was champignons in olive oil, served hot enough to burn your fingers.

Further information from Pegasus Winter City Holidays, 33/35 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1, 826 2151.

mas (Clint Eastwood was everywhere) gipsies sitting oddly on the shafts of their horse-drawn carts, heads jolting up and down with the beat of the hooves: smart hotels and peeling plaster on centuries old walls.

The delightful Conchita showed us the clock in the Puerto del Sol by which all Madrid sets its watch. Here, on New Year's Eve, revellers brave enough to stomach the biting cold, take champagne and 12 grapes and eat one at every stroke of the clock to midnight. A ritual for the young, I thought. But Papa Hemingway would have joined in.

Derek Darby

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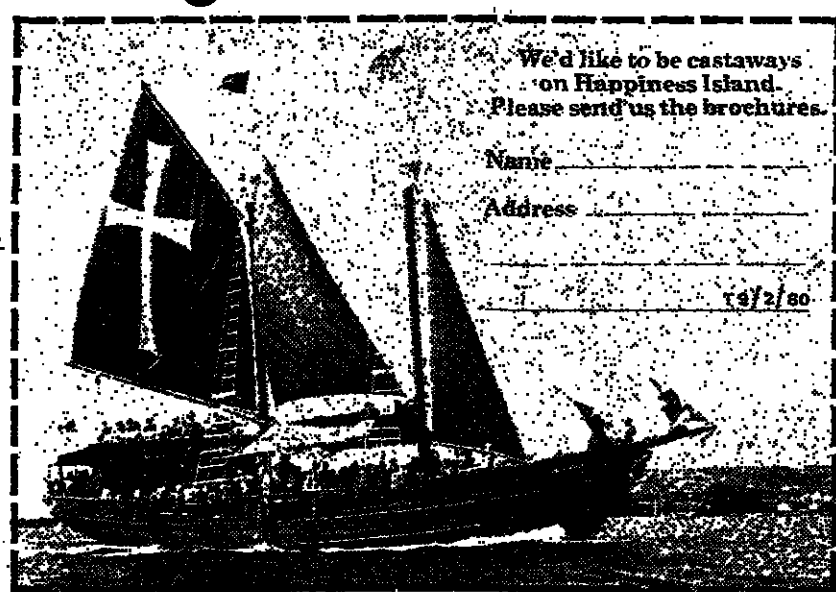
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Fred Emery

Can Mr Prior avert a third union war?

The spasm of impotent rage that has convulsed Conservatives in and out of politics this week over the Government's inability to change the law is not yet spent. It may be that the reforms in the Government's Employment Bill will not be in force until next autumn's round of strikes. But the effect of the past few days' clamour for action means almost certainly that the law will contain tougher measures than originally intended.

This places a critical strain on the Cabinet, particularly Mr James Prior, the embattled Secretary of State for Employment. His whole strategy has been to avert a Third War with the union leadership which the Government would be bound to lose as the Wilson and Heath governments lost theirs. With a passion that belies the smear of pussy footing he has been, is still, playing for the highest stakes of national survival as he sees it. His friends regret only that he did not start to man his defences earlier.

The ultimate deterrent Mr Prior seeks is sustained public support for the reforms he is proposing, not a populist reaction that might evaporate at its first trial of strength. Until Christmas, not without fierce disputation with Cabinet colleagues, he had been carrying the argument. It is obvious what has gone wrong—the steel strike coupled with Lord Denning and his colleagues of the Appeal Court. The effect of their ruling, and the House of Lords reversal, was to precipitate emotions over the law as it stands. It cannot be right, rang out the cry from ministers; never let it happen again, clamoured backbenchers.

Mr Prior had tried heading off the attack. The previous week he had

announced the Government would definitely amend its Bill to restrict immunities, but that made him only vulnerable to the inevitable charge of too little too late.

Overly Mr Prior has ended his critical week much as he began it. Last Sunday he was telling radio listeners the Cabinet would not be rushed; the same insistence emerged at the reportedly impressive performance he gave facing down his critics at Thursday's overflow private meeting of the 1922 Committee of all Conservative backbenchers. But that is not the whole story.

Others had envisaged a different scenario. The militant leader writers of *The Daily Telegraph* also ended their week much as they began. On Monday they told us "it may be an exaggeration to say that the coming week will seal the fate of the Thatcher administration".

By Friday they suggested that a "handful of ministerial resignations" might be preferable to the catastrophe of having Mrs Thatcher beset much longer and "disrupt the country's resolve for firm action". The thoroughly disgruntled *Daily Express* editorially thundered at Mrs Thatcher: "If you don't act now the writing will be on the tombstone of the Tory Government."

The quotes are reproduced to illustrate for those who missed the crisis why Mr Prior's friends began suspecting that a campaign was being waged, and that hostile Cabinet ministers had a hand in it. Horridly they reacted, trumpeting the hitherto unsmiling "rough" character of the measures already in the Bill. Mr Prior swooped at very short notice into the standing Commons committee considering his Bill; he wisely grabbed whatever broadcast time he could, and was only too

Some Cabinet members want to seize the hour, almost as if there were no tomorrow

eager to take on the 1922 Committee.

His difficulty was that when MPs returned from their constituencies after last weekend, they were full of the exasperation of their supporters, ordinary and business folk alike. Discontent was instantly channelled into an impressive sounding Commons "early day" motion, by Mr Tony Marlow, the Sandhurst-educated MP for Northampton North, which nearly 100 Conservatives signed. Rather like a Tribune motion put down against Mr Callaghan it boldly summoned the Government to live up to its election manifesto and—as if the Prior Bill did not exist—"to introduce immediate legislation to restore industrial equity".

Some signatories had so skimmed their homework that when examined on what extra they wanted had to be told—regarding secondary picketing and the closed shop—that it was already in Mr Prior's Bill. Others were told that if they wanted to prevent private (rather than BSC) steel workers picketing their own place of work they would have to outlaw the right to strike altogether. A few sheepishly admitted to having signed

without reading—by no means an exceptional practice at Westminster.

But Mr Prior's task with Cabinet colleagues proved more difficult. He was unhappy to be stalled by them on Wednesday when he produced draft proposals for limiting union immunities in secondary industrial action. He wanted us all to be reading the paper by now. They wanted him to go back and find even tougher options; next week should see the product.

There is, incidentally, nothing new in Mr Prior embracing the proposal to have unions bear their share of supporting members on strike. He promised as much to the Conservative conference last October; also we may expect other legislation this year to curb social security benefits for strikers and their families.

The Cabinet's present intention, according to my information, is that the pending amendment will be confined to the vexed question of reducing the very wide immunities unions presently enjoy from civil pursuit for damages from employers who become victims of secondary action. The issue

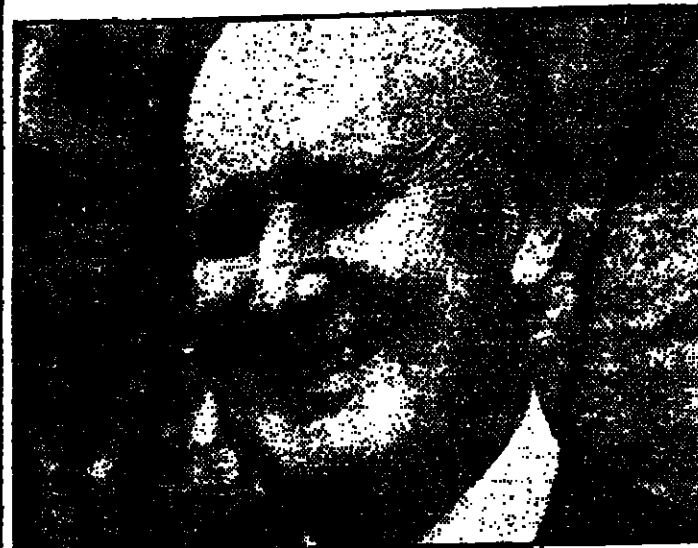
on which ministers presently do not agree is how narrow to define that immunity, and how to punish eventual defectors without making martyrs.

One ministerial view was that the more one goes into the matter the more one realizes how difficult it is. But some members of the Cabinet want to seize the hour, almost as if there were no tomorrow. They believe that the opportunity for tough action will not repeat itself, and that its now or never. So there may be a majority for toughening this intricate more than Mr Prior intended.

The trouble with raising expectations is whether, after all the fuss, the society will be impressed. Will the "martyrs" in the City be setting as much store by how the Government handles the steel settlement and union reform as by the Budget? Will the public, although depicted in opinion polls to favour actions against union power, stay constant if they feel their own union interest threatened?

A key Prior argument has been to insist on doing nothing to alienate union support. The Conservatives gained at the last election. If the Cabinet now abetted a TUC scare over union bashing might not that support melt away, much as did opinion poll majorities in Mr Callaghan's time who favoured restraint except for themselves? And would not Labour at last have an issue around which to unite?

The idea of building a "base camp" with this Bill, and if it holds to climb higher to further measures is one credited to Mr Patrick Mayhew, QC. He is junior minister and very much the lawyer in Mr Prior's department, and close supporter of Mrs Thatcher. Will she accept that it means a hard slog for the hours rather than an exhilarating dash for the top end.



Mr Peter Wilson: ending an era...

How one man broke the sales sound barrier at Sotheby's

Mr Peter Wilson retires as chairman of Sotheby's on Monday, a post that he has held since 1958. It is difficult to see his departure without making a note of an era. Because the glamorous, highly publicized, investment minded art market of today is essentially his creation. His personality has dominated the development of the art trade since the war and revolutionized auctioneering.

When Mr Wilson took over Sotheby's in 1958 the turnover was £5.8m (including unsold lots); last year it topped £180m (excluding unsold lots). He has been the architect of the vast international expansion of the firm. Most significant, perhaps, was the acquisition in 1964 of the New York auctioneer Parke Bernet whose turnover now rivals London. But there are also the Amsterdam, Zurich, Monte Carlo, Florence, Hong Kong and Los Angeles sales.

Sotheby's has been transformed into a vast international wholesaler of art and antiques. Art market transactions have moved from behind the closed doors of discreet and confidential art dealers, into the open auction arena and the glare of television lights.

When I asked him what he considered his major achievement Mr Wilson underlined this: "Before 1958 I was always told—or rather, the general view was—that it was impossible to sell an object worth upwards of £40,000 at auction. Around £30,000 was considered the limit. Since broken that sound barrier is, I think, what I am most proud of."

In fact he achieved this at the very start of his reign. It was in 1958, just after he took over the chairmanship, that Sotheby's held the milestone Goldschmidt sale of Impressionist pictures. The seven superb Impressionist paintings were sent to London from America for sale in a blaze of publicity; the highest price was for a Cézanne at £220,000, the lowest for a Manet at £65,000.

But he has built steadily on this, convincing an ever increasing number of people that to sell at auction is the way to get top prices for their possessions. The £18m Von Hirsch collection sale of 1978 was the latest, most spectacular example. Prices on individual enameled went as high as £12m—a far cry from £40,000. What is more the public have been gently coaxed into looking on their art works as liquid assets, repositories of wealth which can be realized at any time by returning the art work to the sale room.

This has generated a major increase in the number of people buying works of art, and an even larger increase in the sums of money they are prepared to invest in any single object.

Can, of course, be pointed out that Christie's are also international wholesalers of art, while the Sotheby achievement has been a team effort. However, Christie's have unquestionably followed Sotheby's lead, and the staff of Sotheby's would be the first to admit that they look on their chairman as a genius—a thoroughly tiresome one at times, perhaps—and that his judgment is deeper on matters both great and small. He has helped sort out a porter's matrimonial problems in his time, as well as securing

multi-million properties for sale. Tall, with his hair now receding, Mr Peter Wilson is an old Etonian with the characteristic elongated vowel sounds and tailor-made suits. Born in 1913, he was the third son of Sir Matthew Wilson, Bt, of Eton Hall, Yorkshire; and the Hon. Barbara Lister, daughter of the 4th Baron Ribblesdale.

From Eton he proceeded to New College, Oxford, but left without a degree in pursuit of a job to support a wife. He married Grace Ranken in 1935 whom he had met when studying German in Hamburg; their marriage was later dissolved.

His first job was with Reuters but lasted only a couple of months. He had a number of other short lived jobs in journalism and ended up on *The Connoisseur* promoting circulation. It was from there that he joined Sotheby's in 1936. He bought his first shares in Sotheby's in 1938. From 1941 to 1946 he worked for MIF, first in London and St Albans and then in Washington.

In 1946 he returned to Sotheby's, at first taking charge of the works of art department. In 1951 he moved across to run the picture side, sensing that it was here that the most sensational coups were to be made.

In fact, the first characteristic Wilson style coup was achieved before he took over the chairmanship. In 1954 Sotheby's were employed as consultants by the Egyptian government for the sale of King Farouk's art collection after Nasser had seized power. Sotheby's catalogued the collection, though they were not permitted to take the auction which lasted 27 days.

There were immensely complex legal, political and financial problems involved in running the sale, for instance ensuring that dealers from several different countries were not hampered by exchange control restrictions.

A preparedness to tackle very complicated tax and legal problems for the sake of securing a major collection for sale is characteristic of Mr Wilson's style. On one occasion, for instance, he persuaded the American government to act on behalf of all the creditors of a bankrupt collector and consign his collection for sale at Sotheby's; unpaid tax was, naturally, among his major liabilities.

On the day I spoke to him Mr Wilson had woken at 6.30 am and cracked straight into work, reading papers and making phone calls. He generally leaves Sotheby's around 7.0 or 7.30 in the evening. In fact, he lives, eats and breathes Sotheby's.

While retiring as chairman, he remains a director of Sotheby's with special responsibility for generating international business. "I shall have to try not to be obsessed with Sotheby's," he says sadly. He plans to use the eighteenth century mansion outside Grasse, in the South of France, which he bought 15 years ago as his base, and travel extensively.

It is handy for Monte Carlo where Sotheby's held major sales three times a year, but he won't be able to keep more than a long distance finger in Sotheby's London pie.

Geraldine Norman
Salesroom Correspondent

Michael Frenchman takes a fresh look at the Norsemen and their tarnished reputation

Finding a good word for the poor old Vikings

The Viking exhibition opens at the British Museum on February 14 until July 20.

"Vikings!" was the cry that echoed round our shores a thousand and more years ago. It was a cry heard throughout the wastes of Russia, past the Caspian Sea and into the Middle East, and across the Atlantic to Greenland and North America. But who were the Vikings? Were they really barbarians who raped our women, plundered our towns and villages? Were they really such bad news? The short answer is no, at least not entirely.

In the words of Dr David M. Wilson, director of the British Museum, and a leading authority on the Vikings "they had a bad press, their image was wrong". Now Dr Wilson and other leading historians and archaeologists are in the business of trying to put the record right with as much verve and enthusiasm, not to mention money, as though the campaign had been planned by Satchel and Satchel.

The Vikings, of course, did not exist as such. There were no people named "vikings". One of the most likely explanations is that the term comes from a word generally thought to have been used to describe a voyage to a foreign land—the expression being to "go a viking" (to go on a trip) as Dr Thor Heyerdahl puts it. Hence these people who came from the Nordic countries became known as "vikings".

In fact these Norsemen from Denmark, Southern Sweden, and Norway were incredible maritime architects and ship-builders who made a technological breakthrough with the design of a whole family of ships from raiding vessels, to great cargo carriers and small coastal fishing craft.

They ranged the seas and rivers of Europe and the Mediterranean far and wide. They were not so much raiders as aggressive commercial travellers from Istanbul to Labrador; Dr Charlotte Blindheim, director of the University Museum in Oslo, is a fervent supporter of the "trader not raider" image borne out by the remarkable archaeological discoveries that



Photograph by Harry Kerr

Pre-Viking graves at old Upsala, Sweden: archaeological discoveries elsewhere support the 'trader not raider' image

have been made over the last ten to fifteen years.

After much speculation and several hoaxes only diligent archaeological fieldwork by two other Norwegians, Helge and Anne Ingstad, has established the definite existence of a Viking settlement and trading post in Newfoundland. Substantial villages and farms existed on nearby Greenland across the Davis Strait.

Two of the most remarkable discoveries to support the trader theory are the excavations at York and Dublin which have shown that the Vikings had established major trading stations in each place. It was in 793 A.D. that a hit-and-run commando raid on the monastery at Lindisfarne not only signified the beginning of the Viking era as we know it but also gave them a press image with disastrous consequences which lasted for more than a thousand years.

True, the long boats filled with heavily armed warriors (no horned helmets—only tourist advertisements picture them like that) appeared out of the blue and terrorizing the place vanished as fast as they had come. According to

Dr Wilson, the Irish monks, always prone to exaggeration, made the most of it and the word spread—watch out for those devil Vikings. They appreciated beauty and form. Look at the exquisite shape of the famous Gokstad ship at Oslo, one of the most aesthetically pleasing technological designs in the world, but perhaps not quite so seaworthy as all that. Then they had fine weapons and rich, but not ornate, jewelry in silver and gold. They could also be gentle, generous and gregarious in conversation, especially after a pint or two of home brew.

Drinking, for instance, got them a terrible name according to Magnus Magnusson, who cites the case of a Viking ship's visit to Portland, in Dorset, where a drunken brawl apparently resulted in the death of the local customs officer.

Viking expeditions pushed south to Constantinople where

they formed the Varangian guard, an elite corps who looked after the Emperor; perhaps one of their least known exploits is their participation in the wars of the Crusade and their attacks on the Moslem cities of the Middle East, especially the Mediterranean coast. Today the pattern has changed slightly. Modern Scandinavians still go to war, but as members of the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces, who by a twist of fate are often more than active in the same part of the Middle East as their predecessors were nearly a millennium earlier.

And as traders today the Scandinavians have followed in the footsteps of their forbears—in shipping, aviation and commerce. Great trading houses, like the Danish East Asiatic Company, span the globe carrying on the tradition started with the long ships. One of the greatest

impacts on modern society has been the influence of Scandinavian design, especially in architecture and in the home with its naturally, cool, clean practicality.

All this and more has come from the Vikings. Continued research and new interpretations of the old Norse sagas and other works shows us another often forgotten role—that of the warring missionary. The Vikings blazed a trail for Christianity often in a true baptism of fire across the north Atlantic beginning with the Faroe Islands, then to Iceland and on to Greenland and the new world of America where the first Christian Viking, brother of Leif Erikson, was buried, according to the sagas.

Interest in the Vikings has revived considerably since the 1960s as more and more discoveries have been made, particularly in Denmark and southern Norway and Sweden

as well as those in the British Isles. These archaeological explorations, which perhaps had their turning point in Denmark with the findings of the Roskilde ships in 1957 and the continuing excavations at Hedeby, have thrown new light on this hitherto dark and tumultuous period of history.

It might be said that part of this image projection, or correction, and a reflection of the increasing interest are the reasons why the exhibition on the Vikings is being held at the British Museum from February 14 onwards until July 20. It then goes to the Metropolitan Museum, New York, where it opens in September. The exhibition is sponsored by the Times Newspapers in association with SAS (Scandinavian Airlines System) and with financial assistance from the Cultural Fund of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

It represents a major attempt to bring together for the first time many items of the Viking period from museums not only in the Nordic countries themselves but from other museums and collections in many countries elsewhere.

SPORTS DIARY

Well-spent youth on the baize table

If mastery with the cue was once dismissed by Herbert Spencer as the result of a mis-spent youth, events at the billiard table have done much in recent years to invalidate his claim. Anyone earning £4,500 at snooker as first prize for five days' work, for instance, can boast of a youth very well spent indeed.

At the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament, ending in finality at the Wembley Conference Centre, an added incentive to the total of £14,000 in prize money was an offer of £10,000 for the first man to make the maximum break of 147 (15 reds, 15 blacks and all the colours). What the odds are against this happening in a five-day tournament involving 10 men is hard to say for an occurrence as rare as the hole-in-one at golf.

The late Joe Davis, once dubbed as Sultan of Snooker and the Emperor of Pot, who made this break on January 20,

1955, at the Leicester Square Hall against Willie Smith, could not have envisaged the monetary potential his accomplishment would have in later years.

The careers of most of the competitors at the Masters tournament tell the familiar story of the hard climb to fame from humble beginnings in coal-mining, steelworks and other similar environments. Another "Hurricane" figure, born in Belfast, was a former apprentice jockey. Whether they lived life in those spheres I do not know, but as artists they have brought to the world of snooker a mordant sense of humour.

The show began each day at the conference centre with the dimming of the surrounding lights and the spotlight resting temporarily on the Master of Ceremonies who first presented the two charming hostesses on either side of him. The wolf whistles which accompanied the announcement on the first afternoon were not repeated. Next was the introduction of the contestants emerging from a time like gladiators from a pit, armed not with a sword or mace and chain, but a cue and a piece

of chalk. It all added up to good showmanship.

Right to the point

There is a history behind the introduction of the tip of the cue from which generates all the complex shots in the snooker players' repertoire. They owe it all to a French captain named Mingaud who spent much of his time in a Paris jail experimenting with a tipped cue. On his release from prison in 1807 he surprised everybody with his cue-manship but not until the 1820s was chalk introduced as the medium for the leather tip to grip the ball more effectively.

The public never seemed to tire of watching the struggle in the centre of the arena which the Canadian Cliff Thorburn described at the pitch where, while one contestant was in action the other was reduced to a human cue-rack pondering the consequences of his mistakes and wondering when the other man was going to finish.

Some players, like Fred Davis and Higgins broke the silence with an occasional quip. Others, like Thorburn, prefer-

red not to talk. "I want everyone to know that they don't enjoy playing me, which is one of the reasons why I don't talk too much until after the game is over," he said. Thorburn spoke of bigger pockets in Canada, of differences in the nap and how in his early campaign at the conference centre he had to hit the ball much harder than he did in Canada and felt as if he was shovelling coal. By the time he was beaten in the quarter-final round by Terry Griffiths, he was anything but a shoreliner.

This great match has been a sell-out, but when the interval arrived a large number of seats had not been filled. Several hundred people, caught up in a heavy shower and traffic congestion near the Wembley stadium where England were playing football against the Republic of Ireland, could not get to the snooker tournament in time. Many of them, when they arrived, were deceived by the scoreboard which, probably caught up in the tension of a dramatic moment, showed Thorburn leading Griffiths by three frames to one. The correct position was two frames all.

The score could actually have

been 3-1 in favour of Thorburn after the most closely fought of the eight frames played in which luck played as big a part as skill. Griffiths had seen the cue ball disappear into a pocket. Then Thorburn, attempting to clear the table, left the pink between the jaws of a pocket and Griffiths avidly swallowed it helping himself to the black as well. The scoreboard was adjusted for the start of the second half of the match whereupon the football score was announced as: Kevin Keegan 2, Rest of the World 0.

Playing up

Taking a more philosophical view of snooker Thorburn described it as a game in which no player can really get steamed up, unlike tennis when each competitor has a chance to limber up on court. When playing snooker he said, the whole body is inactive except the arm. There was, he admitted, plenty of scope for practice but this took place at least a couple of hours before a snooker match began.

Ray Reardon, as immaculately dressed as the others, the

waistcoat being an essential part of the ensemble, outlined the strict mathematical accuracy, concentration, keen sight and the stamina which the game demands. He scratched and scamped a great deal before he found his touch against Dennis Taylor, saying after the match that it was not the question of winning or losing that bothered a professional but the embarrassment of not playing well. As chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association he was trying to project the image that it was the quality of the play that matters more than the result.

Good loser

Reardon, who was once a miner and later a policeman in Stoke, is of that philosophy which puts failure in its place with laughter. It comes easily to him in conversation. He has brought the game to anyone's doorstep provided they have the right facilities. His brother Ron and cousin John cooperate in the transportation of five hundredweight of slate slabs, cloth, cushions and all the appurten-

ances necessary for the correct assembly of the table on which exhibition matches can be played.

But for versatility few could rival the Australian Eddie Charlton who, encouraged by his grandfather, was attracted to a billiard table when he was nine years old. He, too, was a calm and collected sportsman having at one time or another demonstrated his prowess at football, cricket, boxing, surfing, athletics, tennis and roller skating. He also had the distinction of carrying the Olympic flame through his home town of Swansea—New South Wales, that is—in 1956, the year the Games were held in Melbourne.

Whether Charlton can rival the mileage of the referee, John Smythe, who supervised his matches at the Masters with characteristic aplomb is open to question. He became a professional referee in 1968 and believes himself to be the only man in the world who earns his living in this capacity.

Sydney Friskin

Sploosh. No, sorry, you've knocked out my nuclear booklist capacity...



SPORT

Golf

Oosterhuis is at his lowest as he hits his highest noon in Hawaii

From Peter Rye
Honolulu, Feb 8

Peter Oosterhuis has at last got off to a good start. A first round 67 in the Hawaiian Open over the Waialae Course here, left the 31-year-old in a small group behind the leaders, George Burns and Leonard Thompson. Oosterhuis spent the day before the championship fighting off flu and tired up today in a weak condition. "I felt too weak," he said, "to get angry if I began taking three putts again, so I thought I had better do something about it." He holed one or two long putts, never over par, and finished with two birdies to put him in a good mood for tomorrow.

At 11 at Cypress Point, he took him to the hole in the 18th hole, but he has been dogged this year by taking three putts just as he seemed to get some momentum going.

A chip that tapped the stick and stopped three feet away gave him a birdie at the long first hole, but an important morale boost. A further boost came at the fourth, where he left himself with a 90ft putt, but got down in two for his par. Out in 33, he holed from 100 at the tenth to save par. By now he was beginning to forget the day he had spent in bed and his chest felt a little better. He finished the 18th hole with a 10 to 12ft putt for par. He finished in the grand manner.

At the seventeenth, hole, where the course joins the sea, he hit a six-iron in a strong cross-wind for three feet for a birdie and followed it with a bunker shot to 6ft and single putt for another birdie and he was back on the afternoon. All the scores round him were made in the morning before the wind, on which this course with its open greens de-

pends, had gained full strength. Watson's name is on every- one's lips. It is not heard so often when Nicklaus is around, but he is around so seldom by comparison. Burns, who won last week at the Oosterhuis, was glad to be steered round the course by Watson in the first round and to see what he could learn from him. Respect for the man could hardly be more clearly implied. In fact, Burns drove better than Watson, but what did learn was the value of a constantly aggressive spirit.

At the ninth hole of his round the shaft of Watson's driver snapped but it did not affect the tee shot and he did not allow the incident to affect him. He followed it with a one-iron from the rough to the green and made a birdie, as he did at the other three long holes. Again, towards the close of his round he hit three putts from 20ft at the seventh, but at the long eighteenth he took his new driver again from the light rough and banged it five feet from the hole. After that he putted for an eagle, but he had played a master stroke. Two clear examples of snapping back after setbacks.

Burns was still on a cloud after his first round victory last week, but if he came here prepared for red wax, blue, and pink, two blues, and yellow. When he completed this break, he hit 85-1, and then cleared the table with a break of 57.

Higgins, scoring more fluently but still missing the occasional easy shot, the ball wobbling over a pocket a couple of times, and conceding points on a few strokes, took the first two frames easily enough. But he had to struggle to win the fourth. With the score 2-2, Higgins, in favour, Reardon had a chance of running through on the colours, but missed the brown and left it to Reardon to win the frame. After a moment's contemplation, finished the frame by potting the blue, the pink with a magnificent double, and a double after a nine-year marriage.

Miss Knight did not enjoy her success for long. In the quarter-final round she found the brilliant defence of Bu Qian too good and was beaten in the hard games 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, 2-10, 2-11, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15, 2-16, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-33, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 2-39, 2-40, 2-41, 2-42, 2-43, 2-44, 2-45, 2-46, 2-47, 2-48, 2-49, 2-50, 2-51, 2-52, 2-53, 2-54, 2-55, 2-56, 2-57, 2-58, 2-59, 2-60, 2-61, 2-62, 2-63, 2-64, 2-65, 2-66, 2-67, 2-68, 2-69, 2-70, 2-71, 2-72, 2-73, 2-74, 2-75, 2-76, 2-77, 2-78, 2-79, 2-80, 2-81, 2-82, 2-83, 2-84, 2-85, 2-86, 2-87, 2-88, 2-89, 2-90, 2-91, 2-92, 2-93, 2-94, 2-95, 2-96, 2-97, 2-98, 2-99, 2-100, 2-101, 2-102, 2-103, 2-104, 2-105, 2-106, 2-107, 2-108, 2-109, 2-110, 2-111, 2-112, 2-113, 2-114, 2-115, 2-116, 2-117, 2-118, 2-119, 2-120, 2-121, 2-122, 2-123, 2-124, 2-125, 2-126, 2-127, 2-128, 2-129, 2-130, 2-131, 2-132, 2-133, 2-134, 2-135, 2-136, 2-137, 2-138, 2-139, 2-140, 2-141, 2-142, 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2-286, 2-287, 2-288, 2-289, 2-290, 2-291, 2-292, 2-293, 2-294, 2-295, 2-296, 2-297, 2-298, 2-299, 2-300, 2-301, 2-302, 2-303, 2-304, 2-305, 2-306, 2-307, 2-308, 2-309, 2-310, 2-311, 2-312, 2-313, 2-314, 2-315, 2-316, 2-317, 2-318, 2-319, 2-320, 2-321, 2-322, 2-323, 2-324, 2-325, 2-326, 2-327, 2-328, 2-329, 2-330, 2-331, 2-332, 2-333, 2-334, 2-335, 2-336, 2-337, 2-338, 2-339, 2-340, 2-341, 2-342, 2-343, 2-344, 2-345, 2-346, 2-347, 2-348, 2-349, 2-350, 2-351, 2-352, 2-353, 2-354, 2-355, 2-356, 2-357, 2-358, 2-359, 2-360, 2-361, 2-362, 2-363, 2-364, 2-365, 2-366, 2-367, 2-368, 2-369, 2-370, 2-371, 2-372, 2-373, 2-374, 2-375, 2-376, 2-377, 2-378, 2-379, 2-380, 2-381, 2-382, 2-383, 2-384, 2-385, 2-386, 2-387, 2-388, 2-389, 2-390, 2-391, 2-392, 2-393, 2-394, 2-395, 2-396, 2-397, 2-398, 2-399, 2-400, 2-401, 2-402, 2-403, 2-404, 2-405, 2-406, 2-407, 2-408, 2-409, 2-410, 2-411, 2-412, 2-413, 2-414, 2-415, 2-416, 2-417, 2-418, 2-419, 2-420, 2-421, 2-422, 2-423, 2-424, 2-425, 2-426, 2-427, 2-428, 2-429, 2-430, 2-431, 2-432, 2-433, 2-434, 2-435, 2-436, 2-437, 2-438, 2-439, 2-440, 2-441, 2-442, 2-443, 2-444, 2-445, 2-446, 2-447, 2-448, 2-449, 2-450, 2-451, 2-452, 2-453, 2-454, 2-455, 2-456, 2-457, 2-458, 2-459, 2-460, 2-461, 2-462, 2-463, 2-464, 2-465, 2-466, 2-467, 2-468, 2-469, 2-470, 2-471, 2-472, 2-473, 2-474, 2-475, 2-476, 2-477, 2-478, 2-479, 2-480, 2-481, 2-482, 2-483, 2-484, 2-485, 2-486, 2-487, 2-488, 2-489, 2-490, 2-491, 2-492, 2-493, 2-494, 2-495, 2-496, 2-497, 2-498, 2-499, 2-500, 2-501, 2-502, 2-503, 2-504, 2-505, 2-506, 2-507, 2-508, 2-509, 2-510, 2-511, 2-512, 2-513, 2-514, 2-515, 2-516, 2-517, 2-518, 2-519, 2-520, 2-521, 2-522, 2-523, 2-524, 2-525, 2-526, 2-527, 2-528, 2-529, 2-530, 2-531, 2-532, 2-533, 2-534, 2-535, 2-536, 2-537, 2-538, 2-539, 2-540, 2-541, 2-542, 2-543, 2-544, 2-545, 2-546, 2-547, 2-548, 2-549, 2-550, 2-551, 2-552, 2-553, 2-554, 2-555, 2-556, 2-557, 2-558, 2-559, 2-560, 2-561, 2-562, 2-563, 2-564, 2-565, 2-566, 2-567, 2-568, 2-569, 2-570, 2-571, 2-572, 2-573, 2-574, 2-575, 2-576, 2-577, 2-578, 2-579, 2-580, 2-581, 2-582, 2-583, 2-584, 2-585, 2-586, 2-587, 2-588, 2-589, 2-590, 2-591, 2-592, 2-593, 2-594, 2-595, 2-596, 2-597, 2-598, 2-599, 2-600, 2-601, 2-602, 2-603, 2-604, 2-605, 2-606, 2-607, 2-608, 2-609, 2-610, 2-611, 2-612, 2-613, 2-614, 2-615, 2-616, 2-617, 2-618, 2-619, 2-620, 2-621, 2-622, 2-623, 2-624, 2-625, 2-626, 2-627, 2-628, 2-629, 2-630, 2-631, 2-632, 2-633, 2-634, 2-635, 2-636, 2-637, 2-638, 2-639, 2-640, 2-641, 2-642, 2-643, 2-644, 2-645, 2-646, 2-647, 2-648, 2-649, 2-650, 2-651, 2-652, 2-653, 2-654, 2-655, 2-656, 2-657, 2-658, 2-659, 2-660, 2-661, 2-662, 2-663, 2-664, 2-665, 2-666, 2-667, 2-668, 2-669, 2-670, 2-671, 2-672, 2-673, 2-674, 2-675, 2-676, 2-677, 2-678, 2-679, 2-680, 2-681, 2-682, 2-683, 2-684, 2-685, 2-686, 2-687, 2-688, 2-689, 2-690, 2-691, 2-692, 2-693, 2-694, 2-695, 2-696, 2-697, 2-698, 2-699, 2-700, 2-701, 2-702, 2-703, 2-704, 2-705, 2-706, 2-707, 2-708, 2-709, 2-710, 2-711, 2-712, 2-713, 2-714, 2-715, 2-716, 2-717, 2-718, 2-719, 2-720, 2-721, 2-722, 2-723, 2-724, 2-725, 2-726, 2-727, 2-728, 2-729, 2-730, 2-731, 2-732, 2-733, 2-734, 2-735, 2-736, 2-737, 2-738, 2-739, 2-740, 2-741, 2-742, 2-743, 2-744, 2-745, 2-746, 2-747, 2-748, 2-749, 2-750, 2-751, 2-752, 2-753, 2-754, 2-755, 2-756, 2-757, 2-758, 2-759, 2-760, 2-761, 2-762, 2-763, 2-764, 2-765, 2-766, 2-767, 2-768, 2-769, 2-770, 2-771, 2-772, 2-773, 2-774, 2-775, 2-776, 2-777, 2-778, 2-779, 2-780, 2-781, 2-782, 2-783, 2-784, 2-785, 2-786, 2-787, 2-788, 2-789, 2-790, 2-791, 2-792, 2-793, 2-794, 2-795, 2-796, 2-797, 2-798, 2-799, 2-800, 2-801, 2-802, 2-803, 2-804, 2-805, 2-806, 2-807, 2-808, 2-809, 2-810, 2-811, 2-812, 2-813, 2-814, 2-815, 2-816, 2-817, 2-818, 2-819, 2-820, 2-821, 2-822, 2-823, 2-824, 2-825, 2-826, 2-827, 2-828, 2-829, 2-830, 2-831, 2-832, 2-833, 2-834, 2-835, 2-836, 2-837, 2-838, 2-839, 2-840, 2-841, 2-842, 2-843, 2-844, 2-845, 2-846, 2-847, 2-848, 2-849, 2-850, 2-851, 2-852, 2-853, 2-854, 2-855, 2-856, 2-857, 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2-1125, 2-1126, 2-1127, 2-1128, 2-1129, 2-1130, 2-1131, 2-1132, 2-1133, 2-1134, 2-1135, 2-1136, 2-1137, 2-1138, 2-1139, 2-1140, 2-1141, 2-1142, 2-1143, 2-1144, 2-1145, 2-1146, 2-1147, 2-1148, 2-1149, 2-1150, 2-1151, 2-1152, 2-1153, 2-1154, 2-1155, 2-1156, 2-1157, 2-1158, 2-1159, 2-1160, 2-1161, 2-1162, 2-1163, 2-1164, 2-1165, 2-1166, 2-1167, 2-1168, 2-1169, 2-1170, 2-1171, 2-1172, 2-1173, 2-1174, 2-1175, 2-1176, 2-1177, 2-1178, 2-1179, 2-1180, 2-1181, 2-1182, 2-1183, 2-1184, 2-1185, 2-1186, 2-1187, 2-1188, 2-1189, 2-1190, 2-1191, 2-1192, 2-1193, 2-1194, 2-1195, 2-1196, 2-1197, 2-1198, 2-1199, 2-1200, 2-1201, 2-1202, 2-1203, 2-1204, 2-1205, 2-1206, 2-1207, 2-1208, 2-1209, 2-1210, 2-1211, 2-1212, 2-1213, 2-1214, 2-1215, 2-1216, 2-1217, 2-1218, 2-1219, 2-1220, 2-1221, 2-1222, 2-1223, 2-1224, 2-1225, 2-1226, 2-1227, 2-1228, 2-1229, 2-1230, 2-1231, 2-1232, 2-1233, 2-1234, 2-1235, 2-1236, 2-1237, 2-1238, 2-1239, 2-1240, 2-1241, 2-1242, 2-1243, 2-1244, 2-1245, 2-1246, 2-1247, 2-1248, 2-1249, 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2-1375, 2-1376, 2-1377, 2-1378, 2-1379, 2-1380, 2-1381, 2-1382, 2-1383, 2-1384, 2-1385, 2-1386, 2-1387, 2-1388, 2-1389, 2-1390, 2-1391, 2-1392, 2-1393, 2-1394, 2-1395, 2-1396, 2-1397, 2-1398, 2-1399, 2-1400, 2-1401, 2-1402, 2-1403, 2-1404, 2-1405, 2-1406, 2-1407, 2-1408, 2-1409, 2-1410, 2-1411, 2-1412, 2-1413, 2-1414, 2-1415, 2-1416, 2-1417, 2-1418, 2-1419, 2-1420, 2-1421, 2-1422, 2-1423, 2-1424, 2-1425, 2-1426, 2-1427, 2-1428, 2-1429, 2-1430, 2-1431, 2-1432, 2-1433, 2-1434, 2-1435, 2-1436, 2-1437, 2-1438, 2-1439, 2-1440, 2-1441, 2-1442, 2-1443, 2-1444, 2-1445, 2-1446, 2-1447, 2-1448, 2-1449, 2-1450, 2-1451, 2-1452, 2-1453, 2-1454, 2-1455, 2-1456, 2-1457, 2-1458, 2-1459, 2-1460, 2-1461, 2-1462, 2-1463, 2-1464, 2-1465, 2-1466, 2-1467, 2-1468, 2-1469, 2-1470, 2-1471, 2-1472, 2-1473, 2-1474, 2-1475, 2-1476, 2-1477, 2-1478, 2-1479, 2-1480, 2-1481, 2-1482, 2-1483, 2-1484, 2-1485, 2-1486, 2-1487, 2-1488, 2-1489, 2-1490, 2-1491, 2-1492, 2-1493, 2-1494, 2-1495, 2-1496, 2-1497, 2-1498, 2-1499, 2-1500, 2-1501, 2-1502, 2-1503, 2-1504, 2-1505, 2-1506, 2-1507, 2-1508, 2-1509, 2-1510, 2-1511, 2-1

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Stock markets	
FT Ind 461.4 down 1.5	
FT Gilt 66.53 down 0.52	
Sterling	
\$2.2985 down 15 points	
Index 72.8 down 0.1	
Dollar	
Index 85.1 up 0.2	
Gold	
\$375 unchanged	
Money	
3 month sterling 171-171	
3 month Euro \$14-14	
6 month Euro \$14-14	

IN BRIEF

Imperial closer to success on hotel chain

Imperial Group's £530m (£275m) cash bid for Howard Johnson, the United States hotel and restaurant group, has moved significantly closer to success.

The group revealed in New York yesterday that a major legislative hurdle concerning licensees, which threatened to jeopardise the deal, has been overcome in 36 out of 40 states in which "Ho-Jo" operates.

Shareholders of both groups have already agreed the takeover, but the bid remains conditional on Imperial's United States lawyers getting changes in state laws which prevent liquor producers controlling retail outlets.

In London yesterday an Imperial spokesman refused to identify the four states yet to clear the deal.

£1.5m for new centre

The Leverhulme Trust is to provide £1.5m over five years to establish an Independent Centre for the Study of Technical Change. The project is also to be supported by the Science Research Council and the Social Science Research Council.

750 to lose jobs

Up to 750 people will lose their jobs when Platt Saco Lowell, the textile machinery division of Stone-Plant Industries closes its Oldham plant later this year. The company blames a world slump in demand for textile machinery.

Garment import quota

A quota of 115,000 garments has been imposed on imports into the United Kingdom of jackets and blazers from the Philippines during 1980. This follows a rapid rise in such imports, from 5,000 to 100,000 in the three years to 1979.

260,000 ton ship deal

Hitachi Shipbuilding and Engineering, Japan's main shipbuilder, has signed a contract with Chiyohai Carriers of Liberia to build the world's largest iron ore carrier—260,000 tons dead weight. The cost will be around £13,000m (about £23.5m).

Ecuador \$4m steady

A unit of the Hawker Siddeley Group has been awarded a \$4m contract for supplying and erecting electrical substations and transmission line structures in Ecuador. The award, by Empresa Electrica El Oro was made to the high voltage division of Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering.

Computer growth

Expenditure on computing services in Western Europe will match that of the United States by 1983 if the present 15 per cent growth continues according to the European Computing Services Association. The Western European total for 1978 was \$5,700m (about £2,500m).

ARTHUR GUINNESS

Chairman told the annual meeting that while economic circumstances have affected group earnings, the general trend in sales has continued to be upward.

CBI chief gives warning over hasty legislation against unions

Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

A warning against hasty industrial relations legislation was issued by Sir John Methven, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday. "We could have a disaster on our hands, if we try to legislate in the present frenzied atmosphere to put hasty legislation on the statute book without proper consultation," Sir John told the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

In an attempt to cool his members' growing anger over secondary disruption in the steel strike, Sir John Methven said that industrialists should seek improvements as much through their own actions as through legislation. "Our job is to communicate as we have never done before," he said.

Pressure is growing from militants within the CBI for it to toughen its official representations to the Government's Employment Bill.

The CBI's official policy formulated during an unusually lengthy meeting of its grand council in December is that, apart from comparatively minor changes, it supports the Bill for the time being. The support, however, was conditional on an attempt being made for stronger measures on trade union immunities and secondary picketing at a later date.

Members voted down their officers' recommendation for a moderate approach to industrial relations legislation by a narrow majority at the national council last November.

Since then, as a result of the steel strike and courts' decisions on secondary industrial action, the dissident have become more vociferous in pressing for stronger legislation.

Sir John Methven has also urged the need for speedy reform but he said that "legislation will only touch the tip of the iceberg".

Reference to the public opinion poll carried out for The Times last month, he said that most people are in favour of legislation to curb union powers, and the unions should accept and not fight this limitation.

With the private steelmakers going out of action industrialists are expected to start suffering serious shortages of components within the next few weeks.

But no direct pressure has been exerted on the British Steel Corporation for a settlement.

The industrialists are, however, showing increasing frustration over secondary industrial action in general after three industry-wide strikes in the last year.

This was forcefully expressed by Sir Raymond Pennock, the CBI's president-designate and chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, last week when he said that companies who manage to perform well were in danger of being "sucked into the mire and reduced to the level of the lowest".

The fact that manufacturers have coped with the present dispute so much better than expected was "a sad reflection on the practice they had experienced recently of preparing for strikes and learning to live with them."

Sir John Methven has also been speaking out against union actions in the last few weeks. At the same time as urging a moderate stance, he expressed impatience with the current situation yesterday.

"There comes a time when we have to say enough is enough," he said, "and that time has now been reached".

Referring to criticisms about earlier hawkish remarks, Sir John said that the time had come when "we can no longer stand idly by, watching the United Kingdom torn apart by strike action; when we can no longer watch our opportunities, in fact, the future of British business, destroyed as strike follows strike".

A great many CBI members have strong feelings against compulsory strike action. Sir John reflected these yesterday when he said: "I have heard a lot in the last week about the unions protecting their right to strike".

But what about respecting the equal right of their members to work? If we're going to have freedom and democracy, let's really have it. Why cannot workers not directly involved in a strike have the option of not joining the strike if they so wish?"

He asked whether it was really in the interests of union members to jeopardize their jobs, those of other workers and to try and bring British industry to its knees.

GEC raises Decca bid to £100m

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
General Electric Company

General Electric Company bettered Rascal's latest bid for Decca yesterday with an offer which could be worth more than £100m. Rascal's response was to hold its position over the weekend with a statement saying it was considering a further offer, and it will decide on Monday whether to withdraw or make a further counter bid.

It is clear that the battle has reached its final stages. Neither GEC nor Rascal will want to pay much more than this for Decca which underlined its problems yesterday by disclosing that its borrowings have risen from £51m to £66m at the end of last year.

Whether the Rascal board decides, however, the whole issue could be thrown back into the melting pot if Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, decides to recommend to Mr John Nott, Secretary of Trade, that there should be a monopolies investigation.

Any reference would be up to Mr Nott, though GEC seemed to be going out of its way yesterday to remind Whitehall that its long-range philosophy

is to demerge so as to give added motivation to its managers and employees.

Mr Nott's department has a small working party looking into the tax problems now associated with selling off component parts of the business. Under present rules any proceeds of such having off given back to shareholders are treated as distributable income and taxed as such.

If the Government, which seems sympathetic to the idea, moves to change the rules, GEC has outlined plans to have off some of its major divisions as separate quoted companies, although control would remain at least at first, with GEC as a holding company.

Thus, Decca if it were to be absorbed by GEC, could eventually re-emerge as part of a separately quoted Marconi/Decca electronics concern. Yesterday's bid was GEC's second offer at Decca, Rascal having topped its first offer with an all-equity bid, which at last night's Rascal share price of 214p—down 3p on the day—was worth £91.5m.

GEC's new terms are 550p in cash for each Decca ordinary share and 450p in cash for each

"A" non-voting shares in Decca. This cash offer is worth £91.5m and thus matches Rascal's equity offer.

GEC's alternative, though, is more interesting and will test Rascal and its advisers over the weekend. It is 585p nominal of 81 per cent convertible into secured loan stock 1990-92 for each Decca ordinary and 480p of the same stock for each Decca "A". This puts a value on Decca of £97.5m, assuming the stock simply holds par in the market which no one, even Rascal, doubts that it will.

More significantly, when compared against similar stocks, there is a good case for suggesting GEC's stock could command a premium of as much as 10 per cent, in which case its offer is worth well over £100m.

Ironically, since GEC's huge cash resources were seen as the key to this bid when it first countered Rascal's initial £65m offer, a cash offer is probably not going to win at the end of the day, although the ability to offer cash as an alternative will be essential.

Rascal's second offer on Thursday demonstrated that while it still has the capacity to go further, it cannot offer much

more cash from its own resources. If it is to bid again it will have to arrange to underwrite its paper, and it will have to reach up to the terms offered under GEC's loan stock offer.

It could either increase its terms in equity, underwritten to match GEC's cash offer, or it could itself arrange a convertible offer.

If so, some Decca shareholders (especially those who fear a monopolies reference) will start selling in the market and both GEC and Rascal's brokers will go into action.

The ability to give control to one or the other could well end up in the hands of a single large holder of the voting capital—the Prudential Assurance, Kuwait Investment Office or Mrs S. Dimenstein, a Swiss resident, the wife of a Decca director and the daughter of the late Mr M. Rosenberg, a former Decca director.

Mrs Dimenstein is beneficially interested in about 8 per cent of Decca's voting capital. Decca said yesterday that it proposes selling to Mrs Dimenstein for £1.08m its interest in two jointly-owned companies in the video disc business.

£100m Tube Investments bid for US group likely

By Richard Allen

Tube Investments, the engineering conglomerate, is believed to be in the forefront of a secret £100m bid battle for an American-based packaging group.

The bid target is Craie Packaging, a Chicago-based company with worldwide operations, whose family owners are understood to have been courting potential buyers for several months.

If such a move by TI went ahead, it would have immense significance for the British group, which is capitalised at only £17.5m.

Ranged against TI in the battle for control are thought to be at least 15 American corporations, including Exxon and Coca-Cola. Despite the strength of the opposition, however, it is thought that TI is favourite to succeed.

A TI director refused to comment last night, other than to say that the British group has held a controlling interest for around 20 years in Crane's United Kingdom offshoot based at Slough.

However, it is understood that TI executives in certain divisions have been warned of heavy cutbacks in investment as the group struggles to raise the cash for a huge deal. With borrowings of more than £80m representing 25 per cent of shareholders' funds at the last balance sheet date, TI would be severely pushed to finance such a deal entirely through borrowings.

The British group has been under pressure at home as a result of the engineering dispute. Next month it is due to announce full year results which market analysts expect to be as much as £30m below the previous pre-tax total of £20m.

Last year the group reported a profits fall from £38m to £30.4m at the interim stage and in October gave a warning that the engineering strike had cost £20m. The group has, however, been raising cash from disposals, most notably a £9m last December through the sale of its half-share in a joint venture with the General Electric Company of America.

There were no senior executives available at Crane's headquarters in Chicago yesterday, but it was understood that they were all holding discussions at a "secret retreat".

The family owners of the American group are thought to be keen on selling out and to have invited secret tenders from interested parties. Mr Markazi, the group's chairman, is understood to be handling negotiations.

Although Schroders is TI's merchant bank, representative reports from America suggest that the New York office of County Bank is also involved in secret negotiations. A spokesman there last night denied that County Bank was acting in any way for Tube Investments but refused to confirm or deny whether it had any involvement in talks concerning Crane.

However, County Bank is known to be involved in a deal concerning a British group worth more than £200m (£87m).

Shell exploration chief to join BNOC board

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Mr Malcolm Ford, deputy managing director of Shell UK Exploration and Production, is to join the board of the state-owned British National Oil Corporation.

Mr Ford, who is in his 50s, will be the most senior private sector oil man to have joined the national concern so far.

An announcement confirming his appointment is expected early next week. It will have added significance because it will come just before the expected government statement on bringing private capital into the exploration and production side of the corporation.

Having served abroad for many years, Mr Ford qualifies for early retirement from Shell, which he joined in 1952. He was sent abroad with many of the multinational oil companies' executives for earlier pension rights.

He is an expert in exploration and production in the North Sea, and graduated in petroleum engineering from Birmingham University, which he joined in 1952. He was seconded to the Iranian services company of which he

became vice-chairman and deputy managing director in 1975.

He became director of operations for Shell UK in Aberdeen in November 1977 and deputy managing director of exploration and production in April 1978.

He thus brings expertise at the highest level in North Sea operations to the highly respected BNOC team. It is understood he will take responsibility from Mr Ronald Utiger, the chairman, for the development work on the BNOC's fields.

Mr Utiger was appointed temporary chairman of BNOC after the retirement of Lord Kerton while the Conservative Government decided on the future of the corporation and a permanent successor was found.

The appointment of Mr Ford will take some of the day-to-day running of the corporation away from Mr Utiger, who is still only working for BNOC part-time, and may provide a chief executive for the North Sea company which is expected to be floated by the Government.

Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, has told Parliament that he intends to create a new North Sea company out of BNOC while retaining the trading activities,

Court clears way for Iran bank action

By Ronald Pullen
Banking Correspondent

Bank Markazi, the Iranian central bank, appears to have won another legal skirmish in its battle to free deposits frozen in the United States banking system after President Carter's blocking order last November.

A New York court has lifted the restraining order, taken out by Chase Manhattan Bank in early December, to prevent Bank Markazi from suing it in courts outside the United States.

The ruling allows the bank to sue for the return of funds deposited with Chase.

The decision clears the way for Bank Markazi to press ahead with its claim in the British courts for the return of \$320.9m (£139.5m) held on deposit in Chase's London branch. The removal of the restraining order will also make it easier for the Iranian central bank to proceed with its writs for the repayment of more than \$3,000m (£1,304m) from the London branches of five other leading United States banks.

While the order in the southern district court of New York was in effect, Bank Markazi could have been held in contempt if it had gone ahead with its claim in London.

The decision also represents a setback for the other American banks being sued by Bank Markazi because they had been hoping the Chase move would ensure that all Iranian legal moves against them would come under the jurisdiction of United States law.

But the authorities in the United Kingdom and Switzerland have consistently said that United States foreign branches are ultimately subject to domestic banking laws. More recently, Bank Markazi has met with some success in the French courts in pursuing its claim against Citibank's Paris branch for the return of \$50m (£21.7m).

Expenditure surveys criticized

By Caroline Atkinson

The Government's spending White Paper, to be published next month, is probably to contain less detail than has been given in the past. The Government believes in decentralizing public spending decisions where possible but is nevertheless concerned about overall totals.

There is also criticism of the workings of cash limits and the tendency of politicians to use them as a "back door" way of curbing the volume of spending.

However, the present Government has been too busy cutting spending since it took office to pay much attention yet to ways of changing the system.

Spending will still be presented in the White Paper in terms of prices in autumn 1978 for spending on goods and services, and of 1979-80 for social security and other transfer payments.

The survey committee's system of controlling public planning has operated in the past. Participants at the conference, held by the Royal Institute of Public Administration, said it led to consistent overspending, before the introduction of cash limits in the mid-1970s.

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UK blamed for delay over monetary fund

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Feb 8

Britain's failure to participate in the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary Union, which was advanced as one of the reasons for the decision by France and West Germany not to press for the planned European Monetary Fund to be set up by the target date of March 1981.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France agreed earlier this week in Paris that the second phase of the EMS, which was due to start with the setting-up of the fund, need not now go ahead on schedule, despite a commitment to this effect at the EEC summit in Dublin at the end of November last year.

Britain's position as a half-member of the EMS is seen as incompatible with the Community moving into its second stage of development. But it is also admitted that there are other reasons for France and Germany to delay action until next year.

Both Herr Schmidt and the French President know that the EMS is unpopular in their own countries, and their decision means that it should now be less of an issue ahead of the German general election this autumn, and the elections in France in the spring of 1981.

Furthermore, the work carried out so far by the EEC monetary committee and EEC central banks has produced more questions than answers, because setting up the fund necessarily involves delicate issues of sovereignty and institutional competence over monetary affairs.

On a practical level, any political agreement in the EEC on the second stage is bound to be followed by delays in setting legislation through national parliaments, so the target of March 1981, was probably unrealistic anyway.

The news that France and Germany have decided to ease the pressure was received badly in the European Commission, which was apparently distressed that the future of the EMS is again being dictated by major EEC powers at a bilateral level.

Although Mr Roy Jenkins, the Commission President, met Herr Schmidt shortly before the Franco-German consultations in Paris this week, he appears to have been given no indication as to German thinking on the negotiations towards the second phase of the EMS.

It was stressed in Brussels today that work on the second stage would continue at the level of the European Monetary Committee, and in other expert groups. But without the explicit backing of the French and German governments, a major impulse for the further development has undoubtedly been lost for the time being.

Whether the CDA would have to explore the possibility of cash or loan backing within the movement, which includes the Co-operative Bank, remains to be seen. But Sir Keith's word to the CDA was that it was expected to become self-supporting by charging for its services, or by gaining support by the co-operative movement.

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It was stressed in Brussels today that work on the second stage would continue at the level of the European Monetary Committee, and in other expert groups. But without the explicit backing of the French and German governments, a major impulse for the further development has undoubtedly been lost for the time being.

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PRICE CHANGES

Rises			
Asian Trading	40p to 590p	Needlers	11p to 53p
Osaka	23p to 573p	Premier Cons	131p to 32p
Elmhurst Gold	28c to 638c	Senruss	25c to 725c
K C Gas	31p to 758p	Sidlaw Ind	10p to 94p
Int Thomson	20p to 454p	Tricentrol	21p to 308p

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Bonds

Choosing the right time to switch

Private investors tend to leave their money, once invested, to ferment until such times as they need it. But single premium bonds offer investors opportunities to switch their money from one investment market to another relatively easily.

The majority of insurance companies operate a range of funds to which bonds can be linked. These usually include stocks, gilts, deposit investments where the capital value is guaranteed not to fall, or a mixture under the banner of a managed bond.

But investors do not make use of these switching opportunities. Insurance companies report that a very small number of bondholders—usually less than 5 per cent—actually move their funds.

These are "hard core" investors who switch their bonds regularly on the advice of insurance brokers who specialise in this particular field. Usually, however, the bondholder gets little advice about when and where to switch. Insurance companies shy away from recommending such moves on the basis that this could cause them liquidity problems. They also say that each bondholder's circumstances are different and general switching advice would not be of great benefit.

But they do issue bulletins giving their general views on investment markets for insurance brokers. Unfortunately,

these do not always reach investors who have bought bonds directly from the company rather than through an intermediary; it is these investors who could find them useful indicators if switching is contemplated.

The advantage of switching bonds from one internal fund to another as opposed to switching a portfolio from, say, gilts to equities, are two-fold. First, the cost is much lower. Life offices dispense with their initial charges on these occasions, and make a charge which varies between 0.25 per cent and 1 per cent of the money switched. Secondly, the tax position remains unaltered.

One point to bear in mind is that some offices allow one to switch part of an investment while others insist that all or none moves. So take out a series of bonds rather than one large one to avoid this problem. The minimum most offices permit you to switch is a sum equal to the minimum investment, usually £500 or £1,000.

Although insurance companies do not want to encourage frequent switching for its own sake, some consider that investors do not make the most of these facilities. Performance tables show there is a good case for switching at certain times to consolidate capital gains in a market which has spent its growth for the time being.

For example, one could at the moment argue a switch from property bonds, which have

risen 30-40 per cent in the last two years, to the gilt funds which are expected to do better this year. But beware of getting the timing wrong. You could end up worse off at the end of the day than if you held on to one particular bond.

A managed fund investing in properties, equities and fixed interest may be the answer for those who do not want to make these investment decisions. But they have not turned out to be the promised investment vehicles they were originally hailed to be in the early seventies.

Investment managers have found that they cannot switch the portfolio from one investment sector to another at the drop of a hat. Changing the mix is a gradual process that can take months and is usually achieved by directing new money into the chosen sector rather than actively switching existing investments.

Switching is all very well but first and foremost you need to sort off on the right foot. Just how well any particular bond does depends on the life office managing the underlying portfolio. Unfortunately, you cannot pick and choose between life offices once your money is invested without incurring initial charges on the funds, usually 5 per cent or affecting your tax position if you pay at the higher rates.

Sylvia Morris

Insurance



Bonham's director Mr Leslie Gillham inspecting items in a private collection for valuation.

Valuing your possessions...

Even without a windfall bequest most people over the years build up a modest collection of, perhaps, a few paintings, a little jewelry, a print or painting or two, some silver and countless items of bric-a-brac which may or may not be worth something. But how many people really know the value of these particular contents of their homes?

Every once in a while it is useful to have the more important possessions properly valued and this is certainly the case after periods of extreme inflation like the late seventies, when the value of antiques, fine arts and other collectables were pulled up dramatically, as investors fled from cash and conventional investments.

I went to a Knightsbridge auctioneer to find out about their valuation service, launched some four years ago.

Bonhams does some 700 valuations a year both for

insurance and probate. Unlike some of its rivals it charges a different fee depending upon what the valuation is for: this reflects the fact that probate valuation, effectively the price of a forced sale, is always lower than the insurance value, based on replacement cost—which, of course, includes the retailer's mark-up.

Mr Leslie Gillham, the director in charge of valuations, used to be able to spend more time in the field than he can now. Normally, within three weeks of an initial inquiry (a week if it is a probate case) one of his four valuers will be round to spend a day estimating the value of a house's contents.

If the owner indicates that he has special collections, then one of the specialists from the saleroom will accompany the valuer.

Although Bonhams will value the entire contents of a house

from the junk in the attic to the gardening gear in the shed, most people ask for a selective valuation. Mr Gillham reckons that his fee might be an expensive alternative to rule of thumb judgment about the replacement value of a double bed. If, as result of the valuation, you should decide to sell any of the items valued through Bonhams within the next twelve months, then 50 per cent of the fee is refunded.

Bonhams charge 11 per cent on the first £10,000 (2 per cent on £10,000 to £50,000 for probate purposes), 1 per cent on the next £40,000 (£20,000 probate) and 1 per cent on the rest. Christie's and Sotheby's charge the same at the bottom end of the scale, but the next bracket at 1 per cent rises to £100,000 before the lower fees become operative.

Margaret Stone

...and your house

The insurers' keen interest in making sure that householders are fully insured is not altruistic. After all, a house is seldom completely burnt out and there are limits to the amount most thieves can take away with them.

The truth is that the higher the insured value, the greater is the premium which has to be paid. And insurers want high insured values chiefly because this increases their premium income.

Building societies, because of the volume of business which they provide, have some bargaining power with insurance companies. As a result, they have been able to fend off most suggestions from companies to introduce penalties for under-insurance where they (the societies) make the insurance arrangements.

Anyway building societies have been active in increasing the insured values of the houses of their borrowers—which has, of course, increased their own commission income substantially.

However, insurers are growing increasingly tough with individual house owners. It is virtually standard practice for the insured value of a house to be linked to the Building Housing Cost Index. The value then increases each month in line with the increase in the index.

In the event of the total loss of a house, it is quite common for the index-linking to continue during the period of rebuilding—to take account of the increasing cost of the work. No extra premium is charged

for these monthly increases, but each year's premium at renewal is calculated on the index-linked figure applicable at that time. If a householder is to have the value index-linked, or insured for a figure which, clearly, is too low, a penalty is likely to be imposed when a claim is made.

The effect is to scale down any claim (however small it may be) in the same proportion as the under-insurance. Most of us have a fairly shrewd, if optimistic, idea of the market value of our houses. But the cost of rebuilding will not come readily to mind.

The alternative is either to spend a lot of money on a professional valuation or to measure the total floor area of the house and battle with a chart and explanatory information from which an approximate rebuilding cost can be calculated, depending on the type and size of the house, its location and the date when it was built—all this for the convenience of the insurers.

The Northern Star, on the other hand, simply needs to know the floor area of the house and will quote a premium, with no risk of under-insurance. With the scheme run by the Trustee Savings Banks, which is underwritten by the Provincial, you are quoted a minimum sum insured and premium. Claims will be paid up to that minimum figure or you can insure for a higher amount if you like.

These are simple and straightforward arrangements which other insurers, please, should copy.

Much the same principle applies to the contents of a house, except that in assessing the value there is no chart to guide you. It may be a hard slog going round the whole house, room by room—not forgetting food, clothes, sheets and blankets—because most people who make a guess pitch it much too low.

When calculating the value of your possessions, you need to know the basis on which claims will be settled. Is it "full replacement", otherwise known as "new for old"? If so, does that apply to everything (apart from the usual exclusion of clothes and household linen)? Or is it only items up to five years old?

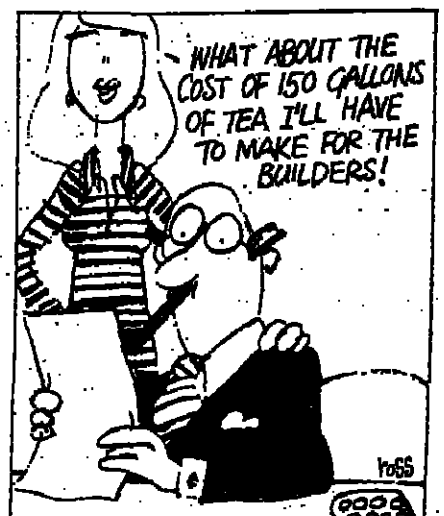
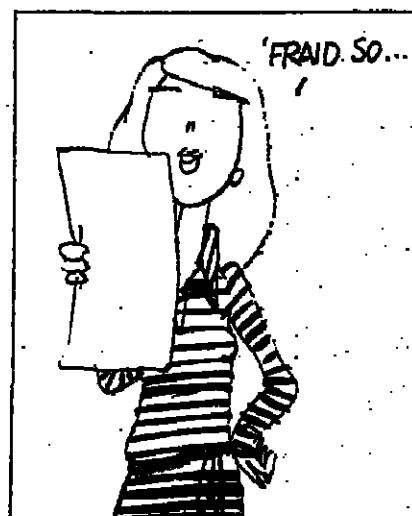
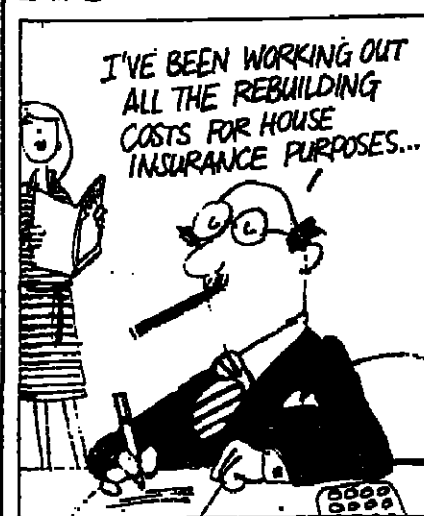
All items covered on a new-for-old basis should be insured for the full cost of replacing them brand new in the shops. Anything covered on a replacement basis should be insured for the cost of replacement, less a fair deduction for "wear and tear", based on the use which they have had. Antiques should be insured simply on the basis of their estimated replacement cost.

It is not an easy operation. Once you have a figure, insurers will link it to a suitable index.

Remember, however, that most of us add to our possessions and do not get rid of them at the same pace. From time to time, therefore, the sum insured probably will need to be increased, quite apart from the increases resulting from the index-linking.

John Drummond

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



BY ROSS

Grouse

Index-linked savings are rightly popular and the Government has acknowledged the importance to the elderly of the Index-Linked Retirement Issue of National Savings Certificates.

Initially, the maximum holding was £500, it was then increased to £700, and last November the maximum holding was enlarged further to £1,200.

But not everyone is aged 60 or 65—and the differential age qualification for men and women is itself another grouse. The Government let the younger ages into the

act by issuing a new index-linked Save-As-You-Earn contract. The maximum investment was fixed at £20 a month—and there it has stuck since 1975.

The terms of existing contracts cannot be rewritten but the Government has two options open to it which would redress the balance. It could permit investors to hold index-linked SAYE contracts to the value of, for example, £40 a month; or what amounts to the same thing in the long run, issue a second series of index-linked SAYE where the maximum holding is higher.

Taxing joint bank accounts

Bank deposit accounts raised their interest to 15 per cent recently. Could you tell me whether for the purposes of declaring that income to the tax authorities the income of two people sharing a joint account the total capital in the account is deemed to be divided by two in equal parts?

Also, when one of the partners dies does his share of the joint account pass automatically to the other? If not, I have a joint deposit account with my daughter and would like her to become the owner of the total sum on my death. Would she have to pay CTT and, if so, on what proportion of the total capital in the account? (JD, Worcester Park.)

The income from your joint account is deemed to belong equally to you and your daughter, assuming there is no evidence that some other rate of sharing should apply, and you are each liable to income tax at your personal rates on one-half of the income.

Assuming you are tenants in common, as is the normal case, the half share belonging to the first to die will automatically pass to the other. That half share will, however, have to be included as part of the deceased's estate which, if the value is sufficiently high, will attract capital transfer tax. The present level of exemption is £25,000, but this is expected to be raised in the next budget.

Recently I was given £5,000 by a relative who had inherited the estate of her widowed mother. No mention of me was made in the will of the widow but my relative says she thought the gift would be in accord with her mother's wishes. Many years ago my wife and I had decided to sell any of the items valued through Bonhams within the next twelve months, then 50 per cent of the fee is refunded.

The only tax which has to be



Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of John Drummond, Vera Di Palma, Ronald Irving and Eric Brunet

considered is capital transfer tax. If there is a liability it will fall on the person who made the gift—your relative in this case—although the recipient can, if he or she wishes, take over the payment. However, it is very likely here that no tax is payable, for the following reasons. For the present tax year, 1979-80, your relative can make tax-free gifts up to a total amount of £2,000, plus £100 to each of any number of individuals. So if the exemption has not been claimed there is £2,100 available for a start.

Also, a tax-free sum of £2,000 for the previous year 1978-79 can be carried forward for one year only. If, therefore, your relative made no gifts in 1978-79, the £2,100 mentioned above can be increased to £4,100. As the gift of £5,000 exceeds this figure, the excess, that is £900, is chargeable as a capital transfer.

However, chargeable transfers up to the first £25,000 are taxable at a nil rate, hence it is possible that in your case no tax liability will arise.

My wife is of French nationality and living in England with

me. Recently she has inherited some property in France upon the death of her father. This property gives rise to some income in France. We have been asked to fill up income tax forms, giving also our gross income in England. Could you please tell us what we are required to do under the English income tax laws and if we have to declare this property in England? (AR, Chatham.)

As your wife is resident in the United Kingdom but domiciled abroad you will be liable to United Kingdom tax on the income arising in France in so far as it is remitted to this country. Such income as is remitted should therefore appear in the annual tax return. Also, the fact of the inherited property should be stated in the "chargeable assets acquired" section of the form, because if it should be sold in due course and the proceeds remitted to this country, the gain will be liable to capital gains tax.

After taking out a 25-year "with profits" endowment policy three years ago, at the age of 18, it would not seem that this is an expensive way of paying for a mortgage. I work as a civil servant. Would it be a better way of saving to cash it in a building society account? (RL, Guildford.)

Are we right in thinking that you have not yet obtained a mortgage? If this is so, a life policy is unlikely to be much help at this stage. It will not, for instance, help you to obtain a mortgage in the future and probably you will have to cash it in (probably getting a poor return) to meet the deposit on the house. Although, therefore, you will lose, it can be best to cash in now and to invest with a building society, which will be of some help in obtaining a mortgage.

Pre-Budget taxation

Are you a candidate for this election?

HOW WIFE'S EARNINGS ELECTION WORKS

In 1979-80, Mr Smith will earn £15,000 after deducting his allowable charges on income such as pension contributions, mortgage interest, etc. Mrs Smith earns £5,000 in the same year and has investment income of £2,000.

Before the election		Mr Smith	Mrs Smith
Earnings	£	15,000	5,000
Investment income	£	—	2,000
	£	15,000	7,000
Add: Wife's Income	£	7,000	—
	£	22,000	—
Allowances	£	—	—
Higher Personal Allowance	£1,815	—	—
Wife's Earnings Allowance	£1,165	2,980	—
Taxable Amount	£	£19,020	—
Income Tax Payable	£	—	—
£ 750 @ 25%	375	—	—
£8,500 @ 30%	2,550	—	—
£2,000 @ 40%	800	—	—
£3,000 @ 45%	1,350	—	—
£4,020 @ 50%	2,010	—	—
	£7,085	—	—

After the election		Mr Smith	Mrs Smith
Earnings	£	15,000	5,000
Investment income (taxed on husband)	£	2,000	—
	£	17,000	5,000
Allowances	£	—	—
Single Personal Allowance	£1,165	1,165	—
Taxable Amount	£	15,835	3,835
Income Tax Payable	£	—	—
£ 750 @ 25%	187.50	—	—
£9,250 @ 30%	2,775.00	—	—
£3,085 @ 30%	—	925.50	—
£2,000 @ 40%	800.00	—	—
£3,000 @ 45%	1,350.00	—	—
£ 835 @ 50%	417.50	—	—
	£5,530.00	—	£1,113.00

The total tax payable after the election amounts to £6,643, which is a saving overall of £442.

Most people put off dealing with their tax until the very last moment, but you should try to avoid the temptation to juggle that desk drawer full of jumbled receipts, dividend statements, broker's valuations and building society passbooks.

A little action before April 5 could save some unnecessary tax payments—by April 6 it will be too late.

A feature of the tax system which ought to be familiar to every married couple where both partners work is the wife's "earnings election". The income of a husband and wife is normally taxed together, but they can choose to have the wife's earnings assessed separately and this can be profitable if each person's income is high enough.

Do not confuse the wife's earnings election with the "separate assessment" provisions where a husband and wife each pay their own tax bill, but the overall level of tax paid is not changed. In contrast, the wife's earnings election affects the amount of personal tax relief and the levels at which the higher rate tax bands are charged.

Normally, the husband receives the higher married personal allowance (£1,815 in 1979-80) and, if his wife has earnings in her own right, she has an allowance for earned income at the same level as the single person's allowance (£1,165 in 1979-80).

The first £750 earned by each person in 1979-80 is then taxed at the lower rate band of 25 per cent. The next £8,500 of their joint income is then taxed together at the basic rate, at present 30 per cent.

However, by making the wife's earnings election, the earned income of both husband and wife is taxed as if each were a single person. The higher personal married allowance of £1,815 is withdrawn and the husband is entitled only to the single person's allowance of £1,165; the wife continues to have a personal allowance of £1,165, but in the form of single personal allowance rather than the wife's earnings relief.

As a result, the amount of

Investor's week

Market ahead despite gloom

As a believer in fate pulling the rug just when we are not looking, what are we to make of markets this week? The worse the news, the better investors like it.

It was a bad week for business. Steelmen stayed on strike. BL (British Leyland) drew down. An FT survey indicating that business confidence is at its lowest since 1975-76 was quickly followed by a Confederation of British Industry inquiry about dwindling manufacturing activity, orders and investment.

It was a bad week for jobs. Courtaulds shed 230 in Northern Ireland; Dunlop declared 600 redundant in Birmingham; and Tootal laid off 800 in Northamptonshire and London.

It was a bad week for government. Commentators line up to sorrow over the Government's failure to cut public spending and the parallel failure to squeeze inflation by curbing credit. This at least is what booming bank lending figures are saying.

Now if this Government falls down on the job we can ask, if not answer, the question: what future for the Stock Exchange? Meanwhile, we can wonder at investors hoisting the FT index from 447.8 to 461.4 yesterday just before the Chancellor will in all probability disappoint us on March 26.

For many fund managers there is nothing to wonder at. The rise in the FT index of about 50 points since the year began simply convinces them that it is risky to keep funds in cash when there is a share party to join.

Minimum lending rate is also the rug just when we are not looking, what are we to make of markets this week? The worse the news, the better investors like it.

Big companies certainly think that some shares are cheap. Racal and GEC outbid each other for all but technically valuable Decca; despite an indifferent record, Armatage Shanks is wooed by Blue Circle Industries; A raft of shares, Mithrandal, Ferranti, Lasmo, Bernard Matthews, Avana and Style Shoes float on a heaving sea of rumour.

The snag is that some companies want others for reasons which have little to do with capital gain. They want, for example, to gain market share, reduce competition, get closer to government, or just grow far. I suspect that either the Budget will be much more disagreeable than people suspect or that it will not be tough enough. Either way, I suggest that we stick to the counsel: "Buy in May and go away".

This, you will notice, is the opposite of what is usually preached. That is because I think that we are indeed near the end of a sustained downswing, but that there is still one more break to come.

It is clear now that the Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, did not get his strategy right in his first Budget, and he is humbled in as it comes up to his second. Once the paltry details of changes to help investors are out, then people who have been waiting for them to sell stock advantageously will act without further ado.

Peter Wainwright

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's High	Year's Low	Company	Change	Comment
Rises				
192p	69p	Cawoods	37p to 192p	Lasmo oil stake
57p	23p	Decca	16p to 57p	Racal, GEC bids
76p	32p	Guthrie	44p to 76p	Hope of Sime bid
41p	31p	KCI	10p to 35p	Mexican oil
71p	28p	KCA	12p to 71p	Spin off of Berkeley Exploration
Falls				
21p	14p	Advest	14p to 18p	Racal sale
167p	104p	House of Fraser	14p to 167p	Bid for shares
35p	22p	Metal Box	6p to 24p	Steel supply fears
45p	31p	Midland	11p to 35p	Div and pft due soon
114p	64p	Mining Supplies	5p to 82p	Int pft due

INCOME TAX RELIEFS AND RATES 1978-79, 1979-80

income subject to basic rate tax, after allowing for personal allowances and income subject to the lower band rate, would be increased from a potential £8,500 to a maximum of £18,500. Each person pays the basic rate income tax on the first £9,250 of taxable earned income and each is then taxed at the appropriate rate for each slice of income. Investment income, however, is still taxed jointly.

There are certain consequences of making a wife's earnings election which can be easily overlooked. Any deductions which are normally first set against one spouse's earnings cannot then be set against the other spouse's earnings.

If you are considering making an election retrospectively for 1978-79 do not forget that you will lose life assurance relief on policies which were taken out by the wife on the husband's life or vice-versa.

The decision whether or not to elect for the wife's earnings to be taxed separately depends on the level of each person's earnings, as well as other circumstances. In principle however, it is worthwhile if the reduction in tax rates compensates for the lower levels of personal allowances.

Each calculation has to be made individually, but, as a rule of thumb (and assuming that you have only the normal personal allowances), an election may be worthwhile for 1979-80 where joint incomes amount to over £14,930 and each person's income amounts to at least £3,765. The equivalent figures for last year (1978-79) are a total income of £12,676, of which the wife's income should be at least £3,691.

A wife's earnings election can be made after the end of a tax year but you should make it no later than 12 months after the end of the year of assessment in question. For instance, you should make an election (or revoke an existing election) for the year 1978-79 before April 6, this year. Once an election has been made it will continue in force until it has been revoked. Both husband and wife must jointly make an election and there is a special Inland Revenue form for this purpose.

Danby Bloch
and
Raymond Godfrey

INCOME TAX RELIEFS AND RATES 1978-79, 1979-80

Single Personal and Wife's Earned Income		1978-79	1979-80
Maximum Allowance		£985	£1,165
Married Personal Allowance		1,535	1,815

1978-79			1979-80		
Taxable Income £	Rate %	Cumulative Tax £	Taxable Income £	Rate %	Cumulative Tax £
750	25	187.50	750	25	187.50
8,000	33	2,580	10,000	30	2,962.50
9,000	40	2,980	12,000	40	3,762.50
10,000	45	3,430	15,000	45	5,112.50
11,000	50	3,930	20,000	50	7,612.50
12,000	55	4,455	25,000	55	10,362.50
14,000	60	5,655	Excess	60	
16,000	65	6,955			
18,000	70	8,705			
24,000	75	12,930			
Excess	83				

Use these tables to calculate whether to elect for wife's earnings to be taxed separately or not for 1978-79 and 1979-80.

Use these tables to calculate whether to elect for wife's earnings to be taxed separately or not for 1978-79 and 1979-80.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Consumer protection

The party's over—are you satisfied with the goods?

You must have been to a Tupperware selling party or one of its subsequent variations, run by that friendly neighbour down the road. (If you haven't given the growth of this particular marketing method that now turns over £200m a year).

But if later you have a complaint against the goods, do you you almost certainly soon will have given the growth of this particular marketing method that now turns over £200m a year).

These and other problems associated with party selling—other types of direct selling—a sector which accounts for more than 50 million purchases a year worth £300m according to the returns from members of the Direct Sales and Services Association (DSSA)—have caught the watchful eye of Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

The upshot this week was a revised code of practice agreed with the DSSA which believes it accounts for 85 per cent of the direct selling industry.

An Office of Fair Trading (OFT) study has established that the DSSA's existing code had already achieved much success, measured by the small number of complaints. This first code was launched when the DSSA was set up in 1965 after the initial growth of party selling imported from the United States in 1960 by the Tupperware company. The code makes provision plastic kitchenware and toys and is now a DSSA member and manufacturer in Britain.

The new code widens the protection for customers. The 29 members of the DSSA, whose products range from cookware and cosmetics to encyclopaedias and clothing, will now abide by procedures which should take any embarrassment out of problems that arise after a selling party.

Invitation cards to parties will make the sales purpose of the party clear. Party hostesses will be told of their rights and responsibilities, and be fully insured by the company involved. Orders placed at a party

will be subject to a cooling-off period, allowing for cancellation, of at least 14 days, although the DSSA says some of its members already give a longer period of grace. Deposits are refundable on cancellation.

When ordering customers must be given written details of the goods and services, and complaints. That avoids having to complain to the hostess.

The DSSA continues its previous obligation to provide prompt conciliation in disputes unsatisfied between customer and company. Copies of the new code of practice should be available at any sales party.

The code also covers other direct selling that takes place in the home such as of cosmetics and toiletries through local representatives of companies like Avon Cosmetics. But the DSSA is not concerned with mail order industry, which has its own code of practice already, and the growing flood of home improvement items.

DSSA members have to satisfy the association about training standards of sales personnel, must not mislead in advertised or promotional claims, and guarantee quality of merchandise without infringing customers' common law or statutory rights.

An obvious moral is to deal only with DSSA members where possible or look for any other organization that measures up to the DSSA criteria. In the North-west of England two trading standards centres are investigating complaints of switch-selling, with one series of cases concerning jewelry which when delivered did not appear to match up to the quality of items on show at selling parties.

Especially beware of pressure salesmen on the door-step who sell "bargain" items usually for cash and leave no details of where subsequent complaints should be sent.

Although there is a draft EEC directive under discussion which would drastically toughen the rules on all doorstep selling, legislation is still some way off.

The assault on householders by the home improvement companies, from double glazing and replacement windows to cavity wall insulation and sprayed-on treatments for outer walls, is being looked at by Mr Borrie. New codes of conduct are already under discussion in two sectors.

Derek Harris



Round-up

Credit cards • New funds

Now is the time to start cutting back your debt balances with the credit card companies—that is unless you have not already done so following the increase in card interest rates to a maximum of nearly 31 per cent at the end of last year.

The Prime Minister has warned that next month's Budget could well include new curbs on credit cards and hire purchase. So credit card companies are worried that any new restrictions would include tougher repayment rules.

The credit card companies fear that the Government may revert to the rules that were abolished in Denis Healey's 1978 budget. These rules required a minimum repayment of 15 per cent or 5 per cent—whichever was a sharp cutback in credit card use. This could mean £20 a month more on the average credit—now nearly £200—outstanding.

Stockbrokers Sheppards and Chase, in conjunction with insurance brokers Sedgewick Forbes Blair Payne, is launching a unit linked annual pre-

mium policy, underwritten by Crown Life. After 10 years' investment, the policyholders can take a tax free cash sum or income from the plan.

A novel feature of the policy is that the cash can be used to decrease the annual premium—minimum £1,000—within the range of 125 per cent and 62.5 per cent from year to year provided the overall total at the end of the term is 10 times the initial premium, a device giving some flexibility in periods of stock market volatility.

Premiums will be linked to the new Regency Fund, managed by Sheppards and Chase, which invests in gilts and equities.

Lloyds Bank at present managing £100m of unit trusts, is launching its first fund for four years. The Smaller Companies and Recovery Unit Trust will put 60 per cent of its portfolio in smaller companies with minimum market capitalization of £1m and the balance in high yielding shares with good recovery potential.

Minimum investment is £250

an dthe estimated gross yield is 5 per cent.

Hot on its heels comes the International Technology Trust, due to see the light of day in a month's time. While further trusts are planned for the autumn, charges on the trust are an initial 5 per cent with an annual levy of 0.5 per cent. The managers retain the right to increase the annual levy to 0.75 per cent for both existing and new unitholders after three months' notice.

The life assurance industry had a buoyant 1979: figures issued last week show new annual premium business of £695m, up 31 per cent, with unit-linked business accounting for £137m of the total compared with £87m in 1978. Single premium business showed a 20 per cent increase to £665m with sales of short-term guaranteed income bonds pushing up these sales by some £30m.

Anthony Gibbs has reorganized and renamed one of the trusts it took over from the old Pica-dilly Group. The Capital Trust now goes under the name of UK Market Leaders trust.

Unit trust performance

GROWTH	A	B
FT All Shares Index	115.8	168.8
FT Ind Ord Index	101.1	130.2
FT Ind Govt	102.1	132.7
FT Ind Mgt	103.1	133.8
FT Ind Tech	104.1	134.9
FT Ind Energy	105.1	135.9
FT Ind Chem	106.1	136.9
FT Ind Food	107.1	137.9
FT Ind Retail	108.1	138.9
FT Ind Health	109.1	139.9
FT Ind Media	110.1	140.9
FT Ind Telecom	111.1	141.9
FT Ind Transport	112.1	142.9
FT Ind Utilities	113.1	143.9
FT Ind Real Estate	114.1	144.9
FT Ind Services	115.1	145.9
FT Ind Other	116.1	146.9
FT Ind Total	117.1	147.9
FT Ind Govt	118.1	148.9
FT Ind Mgt	119.1	149.9
FT Ind Tech	120.1	150.9
FT Ind Energy	121.1	151.9
FT Ind Chem	122.1	152.9
FT Ind Food	123.1	153.9
FT Ind Retail	124.1	154.9
FT Ind Health	125.1	155.9
FT Ind Media	126.1	156.9
FT Ind Telecom	127.1	157.9
FT Ind Transport	128.1	158.9
FT Ind Utilities	129.1	159.9
FT Ind Real Estate	130.1	160.9
FT Ind Services	131.1	161.9
FT Ind Other	132.1	162.9
FT Ind Total	133.1	163.9
FT Ind Govt	134.1	164.9
FT Ind Mgt	135.1	165.9
FT Ind Tech	136.1	166.9
FT Ind Energy	137.1	167.9
FT Ind Chem	138.1	168.9
FT Ind Food	139.1	169.9
FT Ind Retail	140.1	170.9
FT Ind Health	141.1	171.9
FT Ind Media	142.1	172.9
FT Ind Telecom	143.1	173.9
FT Ind Transport	144.1	174.9
FT Ind Utilities	145.1	175.9
FT Ind Real Estate	146.1	176.9
FT Ind Services	147.1	177.9
FT Ind Other	148.1	178.9
FT Ind Total	149.1	179.9
FT Ind Govt	150.1	180.9
FT Ind Mgt	151.1	181.9
FT Ind Tech	152.1	182.9
FT Ind Energy	153.1	183.9
FT Ind Chem	154.1	184.9
FT Ind Food	155.1	185.9
FT Ind Retail	156.1	186.9
FT Ind Health	157.1	187.9
FT Ind Media	158.1	188.9
FT Ind Telecom	159.1	189.9
FT Ind Transport	160.1	190.9
FT Ind Utilities	161.1	191.9
FT Ind Real Estate	162.1	192.9
FT Ind Services	163.1	193.9
FT Ind Other	164.1	194.9
FT Ind Total	165.1	195.9
FT Ind Govt	166.1	196.9
FT Ind Mgt	167.1	197.9
FT Ind Tech	168.1	198.9
FT Ind Energy	169.1	199.9
FT Ind Chem	170.1	200.9
FT Ind Food	171.1	201.9
FT Ind Retail	172.1	202.9
FT Ind Health	173.1	203.9
FT Ind Media	174.1	204.9
FT Ind Telecom	175.1	205.9
FT Ind Transport	176.1	206.9
FT Ind Utilities	177.1	207.9
FT Ind Real Estate	178.1	208.9
FT Ind Services	179.1	209.9
FT Ind Other	180.1	210.9
FT Ind Total	181.1	211.9
FT Ind Govt	182.1	212.9
FT Ind Mgt	183.1	213.9
FT Ind Tech	184.1	214.9
FT Ind Energy	185.1	215.9
FT Ind Chem	186.1	216.9
FT Ind Food	187.1	217.9
FT Ind Retail	188.1	218.9
FT Ind Health	189.1	219.9
FT Ind Media	190.1	220.9
FT Ind Telecom	191.1	221.9
FT Ind Transport	192.1	222.9
FT Ind Utilities	193.1	223.9
FT Ind Real Estate	194.1	224.9
FT Ind Services	195.1	225.9
FT Ind Other	196.1	226.9
FT Ind Total	197.1	227.9
FT Ind Govt	198.1	228.9
FT Ind Mgt	199.1	229.9
FT Ind Tech	200.1	230.9
FT Ind Energy	201.1	231.9
FT Ind Chem	202.1	232.9
FT Ind Food	203.1	233.9
FT Ind Retail	204.1	234.9
FT Ind Health	205.1	235.9
FT Ind Media	206.1	236.9
FT Ind Telecom	207.1	237.9
FT Ind Transport	208.1	238.9
FT Ind Utilities	209.1	239.9
FT Ind Real Estate	210.1	240.9
FT Ind Services	211.1	241.9
FT Ind Other	212.1	242.9
FT Ind Total	213.1	243.9
FT Ind Govt	214.1	244.9
FT Ind Mgt	215.1	245.9
FT Ind Tech	216.1	246.9
FT Ind Energy	217.1	247.9
FT Ind Chem	218.1	248.9
FT Ind Food	219.1	249.9
FT Ind Retail	220.1	250.9
FT Ind Health	221.1	251.9
FT Ind Media	222.1	252.9
FT Ind Telecom	223.1	253.9
FT Ind Transport	224.1	254.9
FT Ind Utilities	225.1	255.9
FT Ind Real Estate	226.1	256.9
FT Ind Services	227.1	257.9
FT Ind Other	228.1	258.9
FT Ind Total	229.1	259.9
FT Ind Govt	230.1	260.9
FT Ind Mgt	231.1	261.9
FT Ind Tech	232.1	262.9
FT Ind Energy	233.1	263.9
FT Ind Chem	234.1	264.9
FT Ind Food	235.1	265.9
FT Ind Retail	236.1	266.9
FT Ind Health	237.1	267.9
FT Ind Media	238.1	268.9
FT Ind Telecom	239.1	269.9
FT Ind Transport	240.1	270.9
FT Ind Utilities	241.1	271.9
FT Ind Real Estate	242.1	272.9
FT Ind Services	243.1	273.9
FT Ind Other	244.1	274.9
FT Ind Total	245.1	275.9
FT Ind Govt	246.1	276.9
FT Ind Mgt	247.1	277.9
FT Ind Tech	248.1	278.9
FT Ind Energy	249.1	279.9
FT Ind Chem	250.1	280.9
FT Ind Food	251.1	281.9
FT Ind Retail	252.1	282.9
FT Ind Health	253.1	283.9
FT Ind Media	254.1	284.9
FT Ind Telecom	255.1	285.9
FT Ind Transport	256.1	286.9
FT Ind Utilities	257.1	287.9
FT Ind Real Estate	258.1	288.9
FT Ind Services	259.1	289.9
FT Ind Other	260.1	290.9
FT Ind Total	261.1	291.9
FT Ind Govt	262.1	292.9
FT Ind Mgt	263.1	293.9
FT Ind Tech	264.1	294.9
FT Ind Energy	265.1	295.9
FT Ind Chem	266.1	296.9
FT Ind Food	267.1	297.9
FT Ind Retail	268.1	298.9
FT Ind Health	269.1	299.9
FT Ind Media	270.1	300.9
FT Ind Telecom	271.1	301.9
FT Ind Transport	272.1	302.9
FT Ind Utilities	273.1	303.9
FT Ind Real Estate	274.1	304.9
FT Ind Services	275.1	305.9
FT Ind Other	276.1	306.9
FT Ind Total	277.1	307.9
FT Ind Govt	278.1	308.9
FT Ind Mgt	279.1	309.9
FT Ind Tech	280.1	310.9
FT Ind Energy	281.1	311.9
FT Ind Chem	282.1	312.9
FT Ind Food	283.1	313.9
FT Ind Retail	284.1	314.9
FT Ind Health	285.1	315.9
FT Ind Media	286.1	316.9
FT Ind Telecom	287.1	317.9
FT Ind Transport	288.1	318.9
FT Ind Utilities	289.1	319.9
FT Ind Real Estate	290.1	320.9
FT Ind Services	291.1	321.9
FT Ind Other	292.1	322.9
FT Ind Total	293.1	323.9
FT Ind Govt	294.1	324.9
FT Ind Mgt	295.1	325.9
FT Ind Tech	296.1	326.9
FT Ind Energy	297.1	327.9
FT Ind Chem	298.1	328.9
FT Ind Food	299.1	329.9
FT Ind Retail	300.1	330.9
FT Ind Health	301.1	331.9
FT Ind Media	302.1	332.9
FT Ind Telecom		

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

AEG uses capital plan to cover 1979 loss

Frankfurt.—AEG-Telefunken has spent most of the DM930m (about £332m) generated by its capital reorganization and the rest will be used this year, the finance director, Herr Horst Brandt said.

The banks involved paid the DM930m into AEG accounts two days after an extraordinary shareholders' meeting on January 15 agreed a consolidation plan involving capital reorganization.

Herr Brandt said the largest portion of the DM930m was used to cover the 1979 operating loss of DM430m.

West German Company Law allows AEG to use its 1980 capital reorganization to eliminate losses on the 1979 balance sheet, while under tax law the company will be able to use its 1979 balance sheet loss of about DM1,230m for tax purposes for the next five years.

Herr Brandt said he will use the tax savings gained to build up declared reserves.—Reuter.

Burmeister and Wain

Copenhagen.—The controversial Danish business tycoon Mr. Jan Bonde Nielsen has rejected the advice of the board of the Burmeister and Wain shipbuilding and diesel engineering company to sell his shares and disengage from the group.

Instead, he will fight back by calling a general meeting at which he would use his majority

shares holding to dismiss the board and personally take charge again.

Ten days ago the board asked chairman Nielsen to sell his shares in the group and called in police to investigate certain economic dispositions in the crisis-ridden concern.

The quarrel between Mr. Nielsen and the board came when B & W was finalizing a partnership deal with West Germany's giant Maschinenfabrik Augsburg-Nürnberg in a new diesel engine company made up of several existing B & W divisions. The deal with Man which has so far injected about 200m kroner into the group helped B & W overcome a liquidity crisis last year.

Dow records

Sales of \$9,260m (£4,026m) for 1979, an increase of 34 per cent over 1978, are reported by Dow Chemical.

Earnings increased by 37 per cent to \$4.33 a share, while net income totalled \$734m—up from \$575m.

In the fourth quarter, sales were \$2,430m and earnings \$108 a share, or \$194m. This compares with 1978's fourth-quarter sales of \$1,820m and net income of 76 cents a share, or \$138m.

Options

Yesterday's buoyant conditions in the oil market spilled over into traded options yesterday as investors took up positions in BP.

Contracts in BP amounted to 177 out of a total number of 719 just slightly down on Thursday's figures of 839. Yesterday also saw the introduction of the July and October 400p series in this stock, although dealers reported little early interest. Most attention was fixed on the April 400p which attracted 96 contracts.

Dealers reported quieter conditions than of late in tradition options where mines and oil shares held most sway.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank 17%
Barclays Bank 17%
BCCI Bank 17%
Consolidated Crdts 17%
C. Hoare & Co. 17%
Lloyds Bank 17%
London Mercantile 17%
Midland Bank 17%
Nat Westminster 17%
Paribas 17%
Rabotswinter 17%
TSB 17%
Williams and Glyn's 17%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 12% up to £25,000 10% over £25,000 12%.

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Nervous close to account

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

* Ex dividend. * Ex all. h Forecast dividend. i Corrected price. j Interim payment passed. (Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. k Bid for company. l Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex right. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. ** No

Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing

In view of the large amount of space and time they occupy, not to mention the frequency with which they crop up in literature, music hall and conversational fencing, modern beds are excessively boring. Who would thank you these days for leaving them your second best Slumberland?

But when beds actually looked as though they were re-creating the half-remembered dreams, all sorts of weird superstitions surrounded them. In the sixteenth century Henry VIII had his bed sprinkled every night with holy water to ward off evil spirits, though goodness knows what the damp did to his joints, and even today men heading for West Africa should be careful if they travel with their mother or sister, not to sit on these good ladies' beds. Apparently, members of the Mendez in Sierra Leone still regard it as the equivalent of incest.

The sort of beds that Queen Elizabeth I was alleged to have slept in with such peripatetic zeal were usually oak and of the ponderous proportions of a double decker bus, so the idea of having a four poster bed today would seem impossible for anyone living in anything less than a stately home.

I discovered this week that this is not at all the case. Four posters can be as light and elegant as you care to make them, and to prove the point you have only to take a trip to The Bedchamber at 3 Cadogan Street, London SW3.

"It is all a question of getting the proportions right", says Hugh Blackett, who opened the shop 18 months ago. "We experimented for a long time before we perfected them and we also had to find exactly the right woods that wouldn't warp or split when the frames were bolted together."

The techniques he has developed can be applied to several different types of bed. First he has special designs of his own, based on antique beds, which can be made in mahogany or pine from £400. A mattress and hangings will cost from £150 each.

He also has a selection of pairs of original antique bedposts and you can choose a pair of these and have a bed designed in perfect proportion for around £700. And if you already have a mattress which you find particularly comfortable, you can even have a bed built round that.

The beds are made by craftsmen in Northumberland and sent to The Bedchamber in long strips. Hugh Blackett then delivers and puts them up himself—an expert task which can take up to five hours. He will take orders for anywhere in the country, although outside the London area an extra delivery charge has to be made.

Whichever variation you choose, you will get expert help from interior designer Liz Williams, who will advise on the hangings that will best complement your bed.

Average hangings take about 30 to 40 metres—they don't close all round the bed as they did when they were needed as draught excluders—but special beds with sunburst ceilings, like the one in the picture, can take as much as 80 metres.

If you visit the shop you may be surprised, as I was, to find that the single beds in particular are quite delicate and would not be overpowering even in a small room. While there, you won't be able to resist the selection of antique and modern patchwork quilts which vary from £40 for the all-white quilts traditionally made by Durham miners' wives, to £350 for a modern American quilt.

Which reminds me of a peculiar aspect of the American fondness for everything king-sized. All the hotel bedrooms I occupied when I was there had at least two beds, each big enough to hold four people, and one had three. A throw back to the Great Bed of Ware—or just an expression of the natural American desire to be friendly?



It is not only the Barbados-bound who look for swimwear in February. Those who have found, from bitter experience, that leaving the search until June simply means paying more for less are wise enough to snap up the bargains as soon as they appear.

And bargains there are this year. The chain stores are doing some excellent one-piece suits in fabrics that are light enough to feel good in the water and elastic enough to hold in the undisciplined curve without actually restricting circulation.

As you can't tell from looking at swimsuits on model-shaped girls what they might look like on girl-shaped girls, we had a grand modelling session in this office, much to the surprise of any passing pigeons.

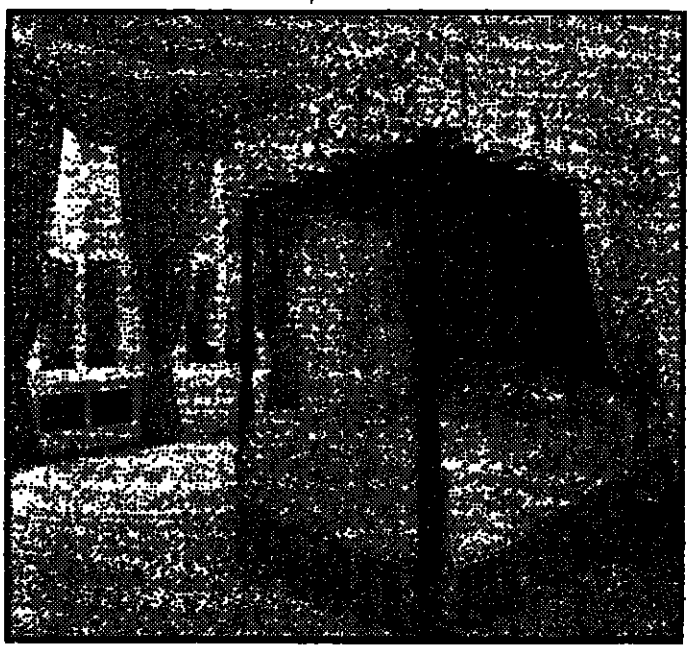
The shapes that did most for all our figure types—small, medium and bigger than last year—were the two we have photographed. The Tesco one with its elegant one-shouldered look comes in black, blue or brown, all with white, in sizes 12, 14 and 16. It is made of 86

per cent nylon, 14 per cent Elastane and costs £6.50 from larger Tesco Home and Wear stores from mid-February.

The bandeau-top style, is from the Arena range, which also has several good plain styles with deep cut backs. It is in 81 per cent polyester, 19 per cent lycra and is very flattering for curvaceous figures. Best in black, but also available in several colours, in sizes 32, 34, 36, and 38 inch at £12.99 from Bakers, Kensington High Street and Army and Navy branches in London, Guildford, Camberley and Chichester.



Below: Four poster bed specially designed round the original, antique posts, has a sunburst ceiling and hand-painted bedcover £3,000 from The Bedchamber, 3 Cadogan Street, London SW3



One of the more paradoxical effects of the inflated cost of gravel is that while guide books in general are having a hard time, expensive guide books are booming. It seems that when it becomes prohibitive to "do" Europe in 14 days, tourists tend to stay in one place—and that is when they want the best guide to help them study it in depth.

That is the reason given to me last week by Timothy Benn, chairman and managing director of Ernest Benn, for the increased sales of their blue chip Blue Guides.

Blue Guides are enormously thorough and have in the past been inclined to leave the reader with the wish that they had after all, left one or two stones unturned. "Now we proceed 50 yards down the piazza where we perceive a portal" can make one's journey ever so slightly laborious.

"Five or six years ago they were a bit stodgy", admits Mr Benn, "but we are now trying to build in the sense of enjoyment that our researchers have had in going round the various places. As people's interests broaden we try to keep up and as well as art, architecture and archaeology, we now include conservation, flora and fauna, industrial archaeology and crafts, so that readers can feel

they know a little bit more about a place than other people know."

Certainly it is the curious and the anecdotal that I found most entertaining in the 9th edition of the paperback Blue Guide England (£6.95) which was published last week. All the scholarship is still there, perhaps with a slight overdose, still, of the editorial we, but I was fascinated to know that the Tower is locally pronounced by the inhabitants of Rye as "Wipers" and that Medmenham Abbey, a mile beyond Marlow, was the scene of blasphemous orgies held by the Hell Fire Club in the eighteenth century.

The country is divided into five parts, south-eastern, south-western, central, eastern and northern England, each in a logical sequence so that the traveller can follow routes which will provide the richest variety of interest, and I admit that I was totally captivated by editor Stuart Rossiter's uncompromising attitude to administrative boundaries. "As far as possible, where the bureaucratic nonsense is a hindrance rather than a help, it has been ignored," he says in his preface. Those of us who have been living for years in the hope that if we pretend red tape isn't there it will go away, will take comfort.

Those interested in pottery techniques will not want to miss the exhibition which opened this week at the Craftsman Pottery Shop, 7 Marshall Street, London, W.1, which shows a very definite trend away from the restrained brown glazes which have dominated the scene for so long.

The work of eight British potters is on show, varying remarkably in texture and concept, but showing a certain unity in their feeling for distinctive colour. Ruth Franklin uses it at its most strident in her comic pop art pieces, patterned like leopards and tigers. Nigel Wood blends subtle shades of blue and khaki on flat, Oriental-style dishes and Ewen Henderson marbles it into a huge, asymmetrical jar that looks as if it has been carved out of solid turquoise.

If you have £80 and can snap it up immediately, I envy you. Some of the most fragile-looking pieces come from Mal Messon who is, I am told, the only potter to be working solely with the agate technique, which reverses the usual procedure of shape before decoration and instead starts with the pattern.

She mixes her clay into batches of different colours and then presses one on top of the other to form the sort of strata you would find in a cross section of agate.

The pattern sections are formed from the chopped up, coloured "dough" and laid out flat, while the spaces between are filled in with plain clay. The whole is then laid in a mould to take on its final shape—particularly successful in the deeper dishes which show the pattern going right through inside out. Bowls cost from £16 to £30 and there are small cylindrical boxes from £8.50. The exhibition continues until February 16.



Two-in-one whisk and carving knife by Stebel/Eltor, £12.95 from branches of Rumbelows.



If you are prepared to pay a high price to outsize everyone else on the ski slopes now and the beach later, take note of the latest status symbol sports sunspecs with a couture name tag.

There are plenty of top names making sunspecs, but Nina Ricci says that theirs are different because their optical quality gradient CR39 lens is also available as a mirror lens, which they think is ideal for combating bright light bouncing off snow or shimmering seas.

The translucent frames are hand painted with vertical bands of red, white and blue or with white and one other colour. I'll just whisper the price—£57.50—but then Nina Ricci do pride themselves on being the designers of the most exclusive and expensive sunspecs. You can find their range at Harrod's, Selfridges, Dickins & Jones in London or Kendal Milne, Manchester Rackhams, Birmingham and major department stores.



Saturday morning in the Portobello Road is just as busy and bizarre as ever, although tourists go now for fun rather than with any hope of picking up an undiscovered masterpiece. The more interesting development is taking place in the roads leading off Portobello, where smart little fashion shops are burgeoning through the brick-tea.

Among them, Antonia Graham and Henrietta Green in Elgin Crescent, are building a mini-empire. They opened their

first shop five years ago at No 7 and filled it with the practical kitchen basics on which it still thrives. There are all sorts of pots and pans and gadgets, French cutlery, seconds china, huge calico pinnies and a basementful of basketware and cane.

In addition, they provide a particularly useful hire service of items that the average cook would use too infrequently to want to have cluttering up the kitchen. A fish kettle, for instance, would cost around £26.13 to buy and for the

number of times one cooks a whole fish, a hire charge of 75p for three days is a much better bargain. You can also hire cake tins in the shape of numbers for children's birthdays for 50p for three days.

All this was a little too practical to give rein to Henrietta's decorative flair so they decided to open Graham and Green Across the Road at number 4, a lavishly cluttered shop with baskets of shells and dried flowers and piles of cushions like a comfortable jungle with brightly coloured

Below:
Cotton holder for crusty rolls or fresh fruit; packs flat and unfurls when the centre ribbons are pulled together. In cream, brown or navy cotton, with floral edging, £3.95 from The Helpful Shop, 84 Southampton Row, WC1 and Annabella's, 130 Oatlands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey, or £4.49 including postage direct from Noyadd Rhulen, Battle Fach, Brecon, Wales LD3 9RW.

My picture last week of the glamorous heart-printed nightie, produced a postscript which confirmed my suspicion that, far from being equal, the male and female of the species don't even talk the same language.

A friend, who suffers from particularly bad circulation as the result of an accident some time ago, has her husband perform a loving little nightly ritual of wrapping her nightie right under her feet and cocooning her in blankets so that she is entirely insulated from chill draughts.

The problem of her cold feet is clearly of some concern and for one heady moment last Saturday, her husband obviously thought his nightly task had been superseded by a new invention. "Look just what you need", he said, reading the caption aloud, "A nightie with shoe string straps".



Left: Victorian square pillowcase with hand-crocheted lace, £18.50. French cache-pot with purple pansies, £29.50. Tablemat embroidered with strawberries, £1.20 and matching napkin £1.20. Hand-painted cards and matching glass, £16.30. All from Graham and Green, 4 Elgin Crescent, London W11. Photograph by Trevor Sutton

pots nesting on the shelves like parakeets.

There are beautifully hand-worked pillowcases, some Victorian, some modern Madiera work, and some unusual and distinctive pottery bought specially in France. My favourites were the cache-pot illustrated and a set of tarte plates with pictures of the appropriate fruits—apricots, apples, plums, cherries, myrrles and pines. You can buy each plate separately for £5.15 or the set of six, boxed, for £30.80. The newest introduction is a

selection of items in bamboo and black lacquer, the trend that Henrietta Green feels will replace the gradually fading fad for cane. They are designed and made in Brighton and the first consignment includes a coffee table with a black lacquer top, hand painted in Chinese red and set on bamboo legs, 4ft x 2ft £139.65 and several mirrors with lacquered or stained surrounds varying from £23.20 for a 17½ inch square size to £39.20 for 22 x 29 inch. Other sizes and items, like screens, can be made to order.

CAPTAIN Original Rebrides. Tendency, street, handkerchiefs, Fabian Mt., S.W., 346 8066.
GORG & KALLER. Upholst., over-curtains, professional, Westmont, 5435 n.e., —(Tel. 694 1596).
ART NOUVEAU/2400. Large collection, Galle, Daum, Tiffany, W.M.F., graphics, bronzes, furniture, etc. —(1-800-380)
FIREPLACE. —cast iron
—stainless steel, 2400 North, London —(1-424 5420).

602-01-444 5420.

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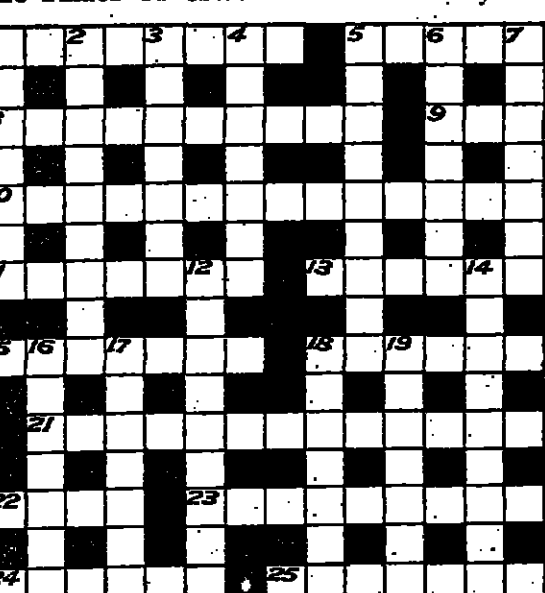
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Just answered
"I have a wife, I am a man
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BIRTHS
SEAMONT. On Feb 5th, at East
London, a son, James, to Mrs.
Anne Seamont and Mr. John
Seamont.
BLACKBURN. On 4th February,
a son, James, to Mrs. Mary
Blackburn and Mr. John
Blackburn.
CLARK. On 4th February, a son,
James, to Mrs. Mary Clark and
Mr. John Clark.
DE VILLIERS. On 4th February, a
son, James, to Mrs. Mary de
Villiers and Mr. John de Villiers.
ST. GEORGE. On 4th February, a
son, James, to Mrs. Mary St.
George and Mr. John St. George.
WATKINS. On 4th February, a son,
James, to Mrs. Mary Watkins and
Mr. John Watkins.
WILLIAMS. On 4th February, a son,
James, to Mrs. Mary Williams and
Mr. John Williams.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,144



ACROSS
1 What Antony asked of his friends, the thespians (8).
2 This month is about second deepest (6).
3 Sue at length with X in case A is withdrawn support (10).
4 Dear I (4).
5 Date has to be first with 10 to cure a sailor (4, 2, 3, 5).
6 Passage leading right into bar (7).
7 Wonder if vehicle's reversing in the distance (7).
8 Garland can be made of stone (7).
9 Forward, the Scots' Own! You have to belong (7).
10 Row a rook moves (3, 2, 3, 4, 5).
11 Bridge tips the wrong way (3).
12 Still as Matthew's withered fig-tree (10).
13 Make secure (5).
14 Relatively given to kissing (8).

DOWN
1 Jack's over 9, anyhow, that's clear (7).
2 Feet perhaps standing in Hell (9).
3 Prince makes one cross (7).
4 Flier's jacket lieutenant and 1 wear (4, 3).

MARRIAGES

RUBY WEDDINGS
RAYMOND and JOAN. On 10th February 1950, at St. John's Church, London, the Rev. Canon R. J. Rayson officiating. The bride, Miss Joan Rayson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Rayson, was married to Mr. Raymond Rayson, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Rayson. The ceremony was held in the presence of many guests.

DEATHS

ANDREW. On February 6th 1980, at his home, 10, St. John's Road, London, Andrew, aged 65, died of a heart attack. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Andrew and the father of three children. A funeral service will be held on February 10th at 11.00 am at St. John's Church, London.

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IN MEMORIAM

COLLIER. On February 6th 1980, at his home, 10, St. John's Road, London, Collier, aged 65, died of a heart attack. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Collier and the father of three children. A funeral service will be held on February 10th at 11.00 am at St. John's Church, London.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN
The Cancer Research Campaign is a voluntary organization which raises money for the research and treatment of cancer. It is one of the largest charities in the U.K. and its work is essential to the progress of cancer research. The campaign is held every year and it is a time when the public can help to make a difference.

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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The villa is a beautiful house with a swimming pool and a garden. The villa is available for hire from May to October. The villa is available for hire from May to October.

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